

Towards Sustainable Global Health

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Good Urban Governance as a Prerequisite for Sustainable Global Health



Crisis of municipal governments under transition dynamics and global change

The combined effect of vast urban growth and transition dynamics under globalisation, pervasive poverty, and increased marginalisation, has impaired the performance of existing municipal systems which were based on the organisational foundations of legal-rationalism designed to cater effectively for market driven urban systems.



Risks and chances: Urban sustainability and health

Risks

- Urban expansion: Land use mosaic
- Air, water, soil pollution
- Waste disposal, illegal/toxic waste
- Inundation: water-borne diseases
- Environmental health problems

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- Rudimentary (health) infrastructure
- Un- and under-employment
- Low labour wages, vulnerability
- Informal sector, survival economy
- Dilapidating urban fabric

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- Socioeconomic disparities
- Informal settlements
- Desorganisation: criminality
- Displacement processes, de-rooting
- Loss of governability and steering

social

Chances

- More efficient resource/land use monitoring / management
- Closure of material-, water-, energy flows (recycling)
- Environmental management
- Increasing income and welfare
- Public / private health infrastructure
- Varieties of demand/supply
- Global connectivity and exchange
- Scientific / technological innovations

- Better education and health care
- Strengthening civil society institutions
- Increased participation
- Social justice, gender empowerment
- Strengthening of traditional medicine

Key challenges of urban sustainability

- Sustainability and securing of resources
- Provision of infrastructure and life lines
- Social coherence / „harmonious societies“
- Supply of sufficient water, food, health services and
- Globally competitive drivers and networks
- Informality and self-organisation
- Social justice and responsibilities
- Governance: government, negotiation, participation



Key challenges of urban health

- Heat islands, thermal stress
- Air, water, soil pollution
- Urban traffic: pollution, accidents
- Urban sprawl, exposure to vector-borne diseases
- Water quality, water-borne/-related diseases
- Crowding, concentration and diffusion of diseases
- New emerging diseases
- Migration and socio-economic disparities
- Extreme events and vulnerability



Urban governance: new concepts

- Double process of change: a) of a more complex reality, b) of the awareness / interpretation of this new reality
- Governance = „the act or manner of governing“ includes governing, steering, coordination, interaction between actors - and the forms, modes and instruments of it as well as all processes, structures, functions and instrumental aspects
- Management of interdependencies, self-organizing system of interaction in complex structures, continuous process
- Comprising formal institutions and informal rules/regulations
- Governance as frame concept, multilevel governance

Distinction:

1. **polity**: structural aspect, institutions, focus on the state, hierarchies
2. **politics**: processes, competitions between actors, regulation of power conflicts, negotiations between state/private/civil actors
3. **policy**: issues/topics of policy making, rules, norms, network management



Good urban governance: implications

- Normative claim: improvement of forms and modes of governance, steering and self-organization
- Quality of the inter-relationships between the parts

Different positions:

- a) New Public Management: minimal influence of the state through increase of non-governmental activities (neoliberal approach)
- b) Increase of efficiency, accountancy and problem solving capacities within the governmental agencies: capacity enhancement
- c) Increase of open negotiations between stakeholders, discursive decision-making, functioning relations of representation

Openness for different theoretical approaches (actor-oriented theories, regulation theories, network-theories etc.)



Good urban governance: priorities for sustainable global health

- Increase of welfare and economic reproduction of the people in the deteriorated urban centres
- Strengthening of formal systems of public and private health care
- Improvement of socio-political cohesiveness and responsibilities
- Acknowledgement and inclusion of informalism as one consequence of absence of popular trust, lack of accountability, weak institutional capacities and poor delivery records
- Strengthening and revitalisation of non-state regimes, which were originally considered to be ephemeral structures of survival, as cooperative institutions of governing agencies: combination of informal systems and community structures
- Five key groups: a) government, b) community-based organisations, c) membership based associations, d) charity and welfare associations, e) public and private enterprises



Good urban governance: Three patterns of change for global sustainable health

1. Regimes maintaining autonomous development: improving planning process, financial management and mobilisation, human resource deployment, improving legal systems, promoting markets
2. Decentralisation regimes: gradual devolution of managerial and financial power to lower levels, strengthening capacities, problem of confrontation between state institutions and civil society
3. Strengthening negotiations: establishment of integrative socio-political forums, laying foundation for inclusiveness, representativeness, legitimacy, and engagement of civil society in the progress of urban governance



