

# Healthy Cities, Healthy People

A framework for action  
for the Commonwealth and beyond

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# Our World is Changing Fast...



**INCREASED  
INTERACTIONS AT THE  
HUMAN-ANIMAL-  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
INTERFACE**

## Why focus on urban and peri-urban settings?

- Urbanisation: From 2000 to 2030 the world's urban population is expected to increase from 2.7 billion to 5.1 billion people – i.e. 60% of global population
- Environment: Urban malaria and vector-borne disease risk varies according to types of construction, waste management, drainage, ditches and water storage that can create breeding sites for vectors
- Urban vs rural: WHO has recognised the different response required for the response to malaria in urban areas vs rural, to address rapid urban population growth and evolving malaria transmission dynamics in malaria endemic countries\*
- Multiple benefits of action: Multi-sector response required to tackle malaria in cities will also help tackle other vector borne diseases, NTDs and TB

\*WHO technical consultation on the burden of and response to malaria in urban areas (Malaria Policy Advisory Group 13-15 April 2021)

## Why work with City leaders?

Many of the indirect (i.e. non health) interventions to tackle vector borne disease fall under the direct responsibilities of local governments

TYPE	INTERVENTION
Environmental modification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving drainage</li><li>• Draining swamps</li><li>• Dredging to increase water flow</li><li>• Making embankments</li><li>• Land reclamation</li><li>• Deforestation/afforestation</li><li>• Flood control</li><li>• Improved sanitation including better water storage and provision and good maintenance of piped water</li><li>• General infrastructure development – e.g., construction of roads</li></ul>
Social/preventive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• House/window screening</li><li>• Improved housing</li><li>• House inspections to identify and remove breeding sites</li></ul>

## Healthy Cities, Healthy People: The Commonwealth

- The *purpose* of this initiative is to **support a network of Commonwealth city leaders** and link them with international health advocates. This initiative responds to the Commonwealth Local Government Forum ‘**Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation Across the Commonwealth**’ and the CHOGM Communiqué 2018.
- The initial *objective* is to agree a ***Common Position and Commitment to Action***, with a focus on the role city leadership can play in galvanising action beyond the health sector. This will be launched on World Cities Day in October 2021.
- The *longer-term aim* is to **mobilise substantial and sustainable support for urban health investment across the Commonwealth**, and create a *network* with a strong focus on vector-borne diseases and NTDs.
- Particular attention needs to be given to secondary cities which often lack the political power, resources and support of national capitals and commercial centres.

# Healthy Cities, Healthy People: Partners

## Partner Organisations



## Potential Collaborators



## Commonwealth outreach to urban leaders (CLGF)



- Hosted series of regional meetings with 20+ countries represented, plus further consultations.
- Covid-19 highlights role of mayors/city leaders, but most lack authority and resources they need.
- Environmental factors must be addressed, investment in prevention has never been more critical
- Keen to join forces with Francophone Mayors & beyond

## Next steps/recap

- A group of Commonwealth Mayors are aware of this initiative and have contributed to developing the Common Position for formal endorsement in September 2021
- UN Habitat and CLGF are seeking resources to support city leaders with technical assistance, enabling them to build the case for investment, identifying opportunities to access sub-sovereign finance and other resources for infrastructure development and capacity building.
- Launch event around World Cities Day – October 2021
- Work plan is being developed under Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network to link leaders with each other and with technical expertise. Widening the network to collaborate with Francophone partners and beyond.
- Developing pilot projects to take to Commonwealth leaders at CHOGM

# Timeline and next steps 2021

