

Aligning Urban Health and Well-being Indicators for Sustainable Urban Planning

The growing emphasis on healthy cities and urban populations reshapes urban development by placing health at the core of sustainable planning agendas. Urban health and well-being result from complex interactions between increasing and diverging urban systems and their inhabitants (including physical and social environments). This framework was conducted to identify overlapping priorities and thus establish potential indicator alignments. The similarities enable downscaling SDG indicators to urban sustainability, while maintaining a clear focus on health and well-being.

METHODOLOGY

- **62** SDG indicators align with urban health via the Health in All Policies (HiAP)
- **27** indicators align with urban health via the New Urban Agenda (NUA)
- **137** city services and quality of life indicators from ISO 37120
- **144** smart cities indicators from ISO 37122
- **115** urban resilience indicators from ISO 37123

While each of these frameworks offers critical insights - HiAP in health equity, NUA in policy direction, and ISO in measurable urban performance - they often function independently.

If a given SDG indicator correlated with at least four of the instruments considered (i.e. HiAP, NUA and ISOs), it was categorized as a critical parameter for specifically measuring urban health.

RESULTS

The 21 selected SDGs indicators for health and well-being:

- 1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services
- 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries
- 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services
- 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution
- 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
- 6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water
- 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity
- 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport
- 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology
- 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing
- 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
- 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate
- 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically
- 11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural) and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)
- 11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)
- 11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
- 11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months
- 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled
- 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area
- 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)
- 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

CONCLUSIONS

The study proposes a **21 selected SDGs indicators** as cohesive and actionable framework for urban health and well-being that bridges policy, measurement, and implementation.