

Directory for integrating health in urban & territorial planning: Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

1. What is the directory?

The directory is an online repository of open access resources and tools that provide information of the importance of planning and designing urban areas from a health perspective, as well as concrete guidance on how to do it.

It is intended to be useful for all the actors and decision-makers who influence urban environments and/or are concerned with the health of the population. This includes a variety of actors from different sectors: national governments, local authorities, public health professionals, actors and stakeholders involved in urban planning and design, and civil society. The sourcebook directory might be of interest to support the work towards developing healthy urban environments, for all those interested in the basis for our collective wellbeing.

In the directory, you will find more than 150 resources. Each resource is accompanied by a description that provides detailed information on the resource

2. Who are these resources for?

There is a specific category that details who is the target audience for each resource (although it is important to note that this is just illustrative and the resources could be useful for other actors as well, even if they are not specified in the description). This category has six different options: (i) policy-makers (including national governments, local authorities, city-managers, etc.); (ii) public health professionals; (iii) urban planners (also including urban designers, developers, etc.); (iv) academics; (v) civil society (including civil society organizations and associations, communities, different population groups, etc.); and (vi) others.

3. How can I access the resources?

Each resource is accompanied by at least one URL. You just need to click on the title of the resource to access it. Some resources have two URLs: the first one will forward you to the main webpage, whereas the second one will forward you to the pdf (this will be indicated in brackets at the end of the title).

The URLs were last accessed and updated in November 2023.

4. What type of resources can I find in the directory?

In the directory you will find resources that describe the importance of considering health in urban and territorial planning, tools that quantify the health and/or socioeconomic impact of planning and designing urban areas from a health perspective, the description of successful initiatives, or training materials on urban planning and health, among others. The resources can be:

- **ACTION-ORIENTED**: provide concrete steps and tools that urban planners can use to not only address health implications in the context of planning but also health-related concerns through the application of updated frameworks and tools. These have a focus on toolkits, networks of action and design guides to support project planning and implementation phase.
- **DESCRIPTIVE RESOURCES**: provide general guidance and important background information on the relationship between planning and the health/well-being of communities. However, such resources lack an explicit guideline to implement steps or tools that could be used to consider health in planning or address health implications via planning. This mainly encompasses evidence, overviews and briefs on a specific topic which can be helpful for gaining background knowledge on a topic and learning about previously successful initiatives through case studies.

All the resources are classified according to the resource type they belong to:

- **ANALYTICAL TOOL**: Tool for use in quantitative analysis
- **BRIEFING**: Briefing for a specific approach
- **DESIGN GUIDE**: Design process with rationale and instructions
- **EVIDENCE**: Comprehensive subject specific evidence base
- **INITIATIVE**: Reports on successful initiatives
- **NETWORK**: Networks of policy and action



- **OVERVIEW:** Broad overview of a subject area
- **SELF AUDIT:** Tool to assist with baseline appraisal and analysis
- **TOOLKIT:** Comprehensive stepwise instructions, with associated policy and evidence
- **TRAINING:** Training packages
- **VIDEO:** Digital recording of an image or a set of images
- **WEBINAR:** Online event (e.g., conference, talk..) delivered to an audience who can also participate and interact
- **WEB RESOURCES:** Source of online information and links for policy and action

These categories (and their definitions) are the same as those used in the publication “Integrating health in urban and territorial planning: a sourcebook” (UN-Habitat and WHO, 2020), except for “video” and “webinar”, which have been created ad-hoc for this directory.

5. In the directory, will I find only resources in English?

No, in the directory you may find resources in several languages, including the 6 WHO official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish) and also other languages such as Portuguese.

6. How can I find the adequate resource/s for my work?

All the resources have been properly classified according to their characteristics (e.g, target audience, type of resource, language, author...).

You can easily view resources of interest in the directory by making queries through different filters (e.g., target audience, publication date, language...). The directory is also searchable using general keywords.

7. Who is the Author or Publisher of a resource?

The author or publisher is the person, institution, university, organization, etc., that has produced and published a specific resource.

8. What does the publication date of a resource indicate in the directory?

The publication date indicates the year when the resource was published or last updated. Those resources that continuously evolve, or that do not have a specific date of publication, might be identified as “n/a”.

9. What does the geographical scope of a resource mean?

The geographical scope indicates the area where a specific resource can be applied.

It can be “global”, “regional”, “country”, or “city”. If the resource is identified with a specific geographical scope, you will also find (in the next column) the name of the region/s, country/ies or city/ies where the resource can be applied.

Not only this, but you will find information about the specific area where case studies or practical examples (using the indicated resources) have been conducted already (in the following column).

10. Are all the resources included in the directory WHO resources?

The directory includes WHO and non-WHO resources. You will find resources from many different sources.

11. Which criteria has been used to select the resources?

This is the inclusion criteria that has been used to assess the suitability of the resources included in the directory:

- Resources should be useful to support the incorporation of health into urban planning.
- Resources should be open access (or available upon request).
- Resources should be available in, at least, one of the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish, or Portuguese.
- Resources should have been produced in a timespan from 2000 – current year (prioritizing the most recent resources).
- Resources should fit in any of the resource type categories (most of them already defined in the Sourcebook): analytical tool; briefing; design guide; evidence; network; overview; self-audit; toolkit; training; video; webinar; web resource.
- Resources should not be scientific research articles (including systematic reviews).

12. Is the directory updated?

Yes, the directory is updated on a regular basis to compile the most recent resources and review the appropriateness of the existing ones. The last update of the directory was conducted in November 2023. Please, see the document “Access the Search Strategy Update 2023” for more details.