

8th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH)

Nairobi, Kenya • October 19-23, 2009



African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC)



Government of Kenya



International Society for Urban Health (ISUH)



Theme: Meeting Urban Health Needs through Innovative Research, Policies and Interventions

The 8th International Conference on Urban Health (2009 ICUH) will take place between October 19-23, 2009 at the Kenyatta International Conference Center (KICC) in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference is being organized by the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH) in partnership with the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) and the Government of the Republic of Kenya, through the Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030. This will be the first time the Conference is held out of North America and Europe.

The annual ICUH meetings provide an international forum for knowledge exchange among urban health stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of mobilizing and energizing like-minded professionals to address the effects of urbanization and urban environments on the health of urban populations. The 2009 Conference will bring together about 1000 multidisciplinary scientists, practitioners, development partners and various national and regional senior policymakers in health, population, finance and planning to discuss urban health challenges and opportunities for addressing the challenges in both the developing and developed worlds.

The Conference's specific objectives are to: (i) discuss innovative ways to translate research into policy and practice; (ii) showcase innovations in research and policy that have improved urban health in the developing world, with an emphasis on maternal, child, and reproductive health; (iii) promote procedures and policies that enhance the health of urban populations; (iv) bring together various national and regional policymakers in health, population, and planning disciplines; (v) foster international debate on promoting and improving urban health; (vi) promote trans-disciplinary research, practice and policy collaborations; and (vii) promote understanding of the impact that urban living has on health and behavior.

A major innovation of the 2009 Conference will be the convening of an Urban Health Champions Forum in which mayors and civic leaders from several cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America will have opportunities to engage with researchers and policy makers in deliberating on various city governance strategies. Among other issues, the Forum, scheduled for October 19, 2009 will seek to build on the resolutions and commitments arrived at various other fora and issue recommendation on the way forward through a Nairobi Statement on Urban Health. The participants will be invited to stay on for the ICUH activities on October 21-23 which, as in the past, will consist of plenary sessions, symposia, oral presentations, workshops and poster sessions, providing opportunities for networking, experience sharing, and discussion of the latest urban health studies and initiatives. The success of the conference will be judged not only by the quality of scientific papers or how many people attended, but even more importantly by how much progress will be made in addressing urban health issues in the next few years as a result of presentations, discussions, and networks forged at the conference.

Besides the Government of Kenya, other partners in the organization of the Conference include, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Urban Health Resource Center in Delhi, India; UN-HABITAT; WHO's Urban Health Division; Center for Global Development, USA; William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, USA; David & Lucile Packard Foundation, USA; Wellcome Trust, UK; Urban Institute, USA; Oxford Health Alliance, UK; USAID, USA; UNFPA; and Rockefeller Foundation's Urban Initiative.