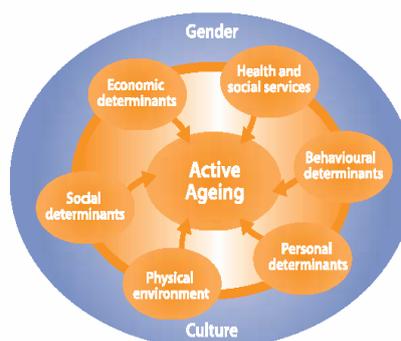


Active ageing and security in cities



Figure 8. The determinants of Active Ageing



1. **Background**

Demographic shifts, resulting in population ageing, are occurring in almost all countries of the Asia Pacific Region, due to improved social and economic conditions, coupled with technological advances in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The median life expectancy in 2003 for the Region was estimated at 68 years for both sexes (66 for males and 70 for females), with significant variation between countries by gender.

With nuclear families on the rise partly due to rapid urbanization, more elderly women than men, and a general trend toward a rise in aging populations, older people exhibit high vulnerability to a wide range of health threats and challenges. These have implications for overall efforts to improve human security in our cities. Hurricane Katrina exposed how the elderly were stranded, isolated and in some instances died due to their inability to relocate in a timely manner. Studies on heat waves in Paris, Chicago and Shanghai reveal the vulnerability of older persons to extremes of temperature. These are just some examples.

What are our cities doing to reduce risks and vulnerabilities of older persons. How can the active ageing framework of WHO be applied to Healthy Cities?

Local policy and action is needed to address the needs of older persons, improve community-based programmes promote healthy and active ageing. Other issues affecting aging populations that need the attention of local governments are employment and income support, marginalization and lack of accessibility for walking or transport in urban environments, and gender-specific programmes and services for the increasing proportion of older females.



There is wide evidence-based agreement that a pragmatic and appropriate policy response prioritizes community-based policy and action that a) seeks to promote optimal health, functional capacity and quality of life; b) provides timely preventive, curative, rehabilitative and chronic care services coordinated through a strong primary health care system as individual needs evolve; c) addresses social, environmental, cultural, political and economic determinants, and; d) ensures full participation and engagement of the elderly themselves in matters that affect their health and well-being.

Advocacy for local government action to promote active ageing is of the essence. Effective advocacy starts with awareness raising of what is possible. To jumpstart this process, advocacy must be supported by powerful visual images that communicate what can be achieved by cities.

2. Good Practice Awards

The World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific calls for application for good practices shown through photographic documentation of active ageing and security in Healthy Cities as follows:

Awards given:

Outstanding photographic documentation of older persons actively engaged in health enhancing activities in the life of the community and contributing to social, political and economic development of the city.

Eligible applicants:

All members of the Alliance for Healthy Cities

Materials to be submitted:

Applicants should submit a CD rom with 10 photographs that document active ageing in practice accompanied by a write-up about urban- based activities to promote active ageing and human security. Report should not be longer than two pages and should contain facts and figures about ageing in the city, city approaches and programmes and the impact of these on the elderly.

Deadline for submission:

27 June 2008

Incentives for good practice:

Three cities will be selected and each city will be asked to nominate a professional photojournalist to participate in a "Photojournalists Encounter" that will be organized by WHO. Three photojournalists nominated by the selected cities will visit the three selected cities and will generate a portfolio of photographic images that will be presented at the General Assembly of the Alliance for Healthy Cities and will be used by WHO to strengthen advocacy efforts.



4. Contact Information

Applications to both awards and any queries should be sent to:

Regional Adviser in Health Promotion
WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
P.O. Box 2932 (U.N. Avenue)
1000 Manila, Philippines
Fax: +63(2) 521-1036
E-mail: hpr@wpro.who.int or mercados@wpro.who.int

