

**World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific Region  
Healthy Cities Recognition 2018**

**Accessible Cities**

**Background**

Disability is a part of the human condition. Almost everyone will experience temporary or permanent impairments at some point in life and increasing difficulty in functioning is usually experienced as one ages. WHO estimates that 15% of the global population have disabilities and this is increasing due to rising levels of noncommunicable disease, ageing populations and injuries<sup>1</sup>. As elaborated by the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health, disability comes from the interaction of the resultant impairments of these health conditions and the context of a person. To alleviate the experience and extent of disability, attention should be given to promoting inclusion and accessibility as inaccessible environments can create barriers to participation.

WHO has supported the Healthy Cities Program for many years and, this year, will include 'accessible cities' in its Healthy Cities Recognition Programme. This initiative aims to increase awareness in the importance of having accessible physical and informational environments, not only for persons with disability, but for everyone who is experiencing disability from various impairments and environmental barriers.

Accessible cities are those that ensure physical environments and information are accessible for all. It supports social inclusion and participation and ensures people experiencing disability are consulted and engaged in decision making.

This call for proposal invites submission by cities that ensure participation for all members of society through creating conducive physical environments and enabling information accessibility.

**Recognition of Best Practice**

Recognition is given to cities that have demonstrated physical and informational accessibility through infrastructure, policies, and interventions in public spaces, areas and facilities.

**For further information, please contact:**

Mr Darryl Barrett (Technical Lead for Disability and Rehabilitation) at [dbarrett@who.int](mailto:dbarrett@who.int).

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<sup>1</sup> World report on disability. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011.  
([http://www.who.int/disabilities/world\\_report/2011/en/](http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/en/), accessed 10 April 2011)



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**Call for Applications for Best Practice**

**Title Page**

- a. Thematic area**
- b. City and Country name**
- c. Full title of the project**
- d. Contact details**
  - i. Responsible person submitting the proposal  
Please provide contact details (name, title, affiliation, email, address, telephone, fax)
  - ii. Additional contact person  
Please provide contact details (name, title, affiliation, email, address, telephone, fax)

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**Materials to be submitted**

A concise written report and other supporting materials including captioned high-resolution colour photographs or videos in electronic format which describe the city's accessibility features should be submitted on or before 3 August 2018.

The following components, as related to tackling accessibility, should be included in the written report:

- Background of the city in terms of urban planning approaches and processes tackling issues of accessibility and inclusion of the general population as well as people with disability.
- Description and examples of legislation, policies and measures that promote physical and informational accessibility and also ensures sustainability (economic, environmental, cultural, and social).
- Planning and design processes in the creation of structures promoting physical and informational accessibility, including stakeholders involved (e.g. user groups such as senior citizens or persons with disabilities).
- Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating accessibility-related infrastructure, programmes or projects, including data collection processes.
- Operations
  - Description of the governance mechanisms for the design, implementation and monitoring of activities related to city accessibility.
  - Examples of infrastructure, programmes or projects to raise awareness on accessibility
  - Examples of accessibility features and structures in (as applicable):

- Transport systems
  - Airports
  - Train system
  - Buses and other vehicles
  - Ferries and boats
  - Pedestrian transport facilities
- Public areas facilities
  - Healthcare facilities
  - Workplaces
  - Religious sites
  - Schools and libraries
  - Leisure centers/sites
  - including parks
  - Public bathrooms
  - Business and commercial areas
- Electronic spaces
  - Internet/Websites
  - Mainstream media
  - Person-person communication devices

### **Evaluation criteria for submissions**

To satisfy the criteria of an accessible city, the intervention must<sup>2</sup>:

- promote accessibility in one or more urban sectors, such as built environment, public space, transportation and information and communications;
- demonstrate how the city has increased awareness and understanding of accessibility at the organizational, community and institutional level;
- be results-oriented and produce a measurable change that contributes to the creation or improvement of environmental accessibility in specific sectors that impact on the quality of life of older people, persons with disabilities and the general population. This also implies having a robust monitoring and evaluation system that includes the collection of data;
- be sustainable, socially, culturally, economically (i.e. be affordable), politically and environmentally;
- be replicable, i.e. show how the product and/or process can be reproduced or adapted in other countries and contexts;
- involve effective partnerships that show the commitment of various organizations, which may include, inter alia, government, academia, media, the United Nations and NGOs. Inter-agency and inter-organizational efforts should be emphasized with the full involvement of Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and seniors groups, and other relevant civil society groups, as well as local governments to assure ownership of the initiative.

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<sup>2</sup> Good Practices of Accessible Urban Development. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; 2016.  
[http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/desa/good\\_practices\\_in\\_accessible\\_urban\\_development\\_october2016.pdf](http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/desa/good_practices_in_accessible_urban_development_october2016.pdf), accessed 11 April 2018)