Developing a Municipal Health Policy

Using the Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART)

The experience of Villa Nueva, Guatemala

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Rural to urban in less than 30 years

Source: Municipalidad de Guatemala, 2011
Source: Villa Nueva Planning Department, National Institute of Statistics, 2002
Local Health System of Villa Nueva

Municipality of Villa Nueva
Health providers

- Low population coverage
- Limited service coverage
- Low financial protection

Health Providers
- MoH/Public
- Social Insurance/Public
- Private for-profit
- Municipality/Public

MoH Districts
- Ciudad Real
- Mezquital
- Peronia
- Villa Nueva

Core responsibilities of municipalities

- clean water supply
- roads
- public transport
- waste management
- sanitary control
- municipal pharmacies
- city planning
- other matters related to the organization of the territory

Municipal Health Services Network, Villa Nueva
1st strategic choice: health services

- High public demand
- Complementary services
- Supportive communication with MoH
- Results: Improved access, but less than expected

2nd strategic choice: join forces

Improve relations with main actors at all levels to strengthen and integrate the LHS and develop a common strategy to reduce health inequities and achieve UHC.
Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART)

Developed by WHO Development Centre
• comprehensive and based on a participatory approach
• links evidence to actions
• easy to use
• operationally feasible and sustainable

Main components of Urban HEART (adapted from WHO Center for Health Development)
Source: Khobreh et al.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Core Indicators</th>
<th>Urban HEART</th>
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| **Health Outcomes** | Infant mortality  
Diabetes prevalence  
TB detection rate  
Road traffic injuries |
| **Physical environment & infrastructure** | Access to safe water  
Access to improved sanitation |
| **Social & human development** | Skill birth attendance  
Fully immunized children  
Completion of primary education  
Prevalence of tobacco smoking |
| **Economic development** | Unemployment |
| **Governance** | Government Health Expenditure on Health |
Villa Nueva municipal health policy: a health-in-all policies approach through Urban HEART

(1) Build an inclusive team
(2) Define a local indicator set and benchmarks
(3) Assemble relevant and valid data
(4) Generate evidence
(5) Assess and prioritize health equity gaps and gradients

Challenges
- Lack of data
- Lack of institutional support
- Legal and administrative context
- The Urban HEART team
- A time-consuming approach
Urban HEART easy to use?

• Interaction with multiple partners at many levels (local, regional and national)
• Political support needed
• Step-wise process?
• Time consuming
• Expertise required
• Multiple agendas needs to converge
Urban HEART, comprehensive and participatory?

• Agenda setting
• Organization of an inclusive team
• Bottom up approach?
• Who leads the process?
Urban HEART, operationally feasible and Sustainable?

• Data availability
• How to integrate Urban HEART to the planning cycle?
• Administrative and political obstacles
• Participation vrs. Empowerment?
Urban HEART, Links evidence to action?

- Identification of inequities and prioritization of needs
- Embedded into multiple agendas
- How to consider the view of vulnerable groups?
- Qualitative + quantitative methods

Municipal Health Policy

- Identification of inequities and prioritization of needs
- Embedded into multiple agendas
- How to consider the view of vulnerable groups?
- Qualitative + quantitative methods
Lessons learnt

- Iterative cycles are iterative cycles
- During the process, reorientation of goals is often needed
- Expert guidance for the process is relevant
- Engaging in a participative approach is a long term process
- Actors internalizing the perspective of health equity is probably one of the best outcomes
- Identifying gaps of information is as relevant as existing information
Thank you for your attention!

For more information:

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