

Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool Project (Urban HEART)

Socioeconomic determinants and health status in Gezirat El Warak
Giza, Egypt, 2012

What is Urban HEART?

The Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART) is a guide to the assessment and response components of the city planning cycle. It is a primary tool to enhance current urban interventions to improve people's socioeconomic status and quality of life. The aim of the tool is to integrate health equity assessment and response into national and local health planning processes.

Why Urban HEART in Gezirat El Warak?

Gezirat El Warak island is a residential slum area located in the River Nile in Giza Governorate. It has relatively poor access to quality health care services (secondary and tertiary), water or sanitation, and uses a trench sewage disposal system. The island is reached by ferry that stops working after 8 p.m. On the island the main forms of transportation are *tok tok* or animals due to the extremely narrow streets.



World Health
Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



Project stakeholders

- » Giza Governorate
- » Ministry of Health and Population
- » Local Council of Gezirat el Warak
- » Representatives from different sectors of the Giza Governorate, such as health, environment, agriculture, education, local development and social solidarity
- » Community and religious leaders
- » Youth associations

Objectives of the project

- Assess the health determinants that affect the population's health
- Compare the social determinants of health of Gezirat El Warak with the national standards
- Determine the gap in health equity between Gezirat El Warak and the national level.

Process

An orientation workshop was held on 30 June 2011 to brief stakeholders about the Urban HEART concept and methodology in Gezirat El Warak. During July 2011, a door-to-door household survey was conducted and heads of households interviewed using the survey questionnaire. The process was conducted with government and community support and supported technically by the World Health Organization, Country Office for Egypt.

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Results

- Red indicates a more than 20% difference in performance compared to national level (>20% difference)
- Yellow indicates a less than 20% performance compared to national level (<20% difference)
- Green indicates good or similar performance compared to national level

Health outcome	Core indicator	Gezirat El Warak	National level ¹
Mortality	Infant mortality rate/1000 live births	12.0	25
	Neonatal mortality rate/1000 live births	6.0	16
Disease	Male hypertension $\geq 140/90$	12.8%	10.5%
	Female hypertension $\geq 140/90$	14.5%	12.8%
	Male overweight	36.7%	34.3%
	Male obesity	21.1%	18.2%
	Female overweight	34.5%	38.4%
	Female obesity	38.0%	39.6%
	History of diabetes mellitus	3.3%	3.1%
Physical environment and infrastructure	Access to piped water	84.0%	98.0%
	Water safety for drinking purposes	17%	majority
	Water supply interrupted	all the time	30.7%
	Access of the households to drainage public sewers	0.0	56.0%
Social and human development	Illiteracy rate among adults	36.4%	25.2%
	Fully immunized infants	95.1%	91.7%
	Delivery assisted by skilled birth attendance	72.2%	71.7%
	Prevalence of male tobacco smoking	55.9%	43.9%
Economics	Unemployment	7.9%	11.9%
Governance	Voter participation (last constitutional voting)	52.7%	41.0%

¹ Egypt Demographic and Health Survey 2008, Cairo, Egypt, Ministry of Health

Future directions

Based on the Urban HEART results, city planners need to pay more attention to people's lifestyles in order to support healthy behaviours, for example through designation of no-smoking areas, factors to improve food safety, and provision of infrastructure to support physical activity, among other things. Focus needs to be maintained on access to quality primary health care services and maintaining current immunization coverage. The local authorities need to improve environmental health, including access to water, sanitation and local transportation facilities. Joint efforts between different

stakeholders are needed to increase the literacy rate among adults, this being an important social determinant of health. The following strategies may be considered to support these directions:

- Strengthening community ownership at all stages of planning, implementation and monitoring
- Partnership enhancement and resource mobilization
- Effective sustainable collaboration between the various development sectors, including health, education, municipality, social welfare, transportation and environment, among others.

