For the first time in history, more than half of the world’s population lives in cities, with over one third living in slum areas without adequate basic services, such as schools, water and sanitation, roads, shelter, safe food and quality health care services. It is estimated that by 2030 two thirds of us will be living in urban areas.

"Urbanization and Health” was selected as the theme for World Health Day 2010 in recognition of the effect that urbanization has on our collective health globally and for us individually. Improving health in urban settings cannot be achieved by the ministries of health or WHO alone, but goes beyond the roles and responsibilities of government and calls for active contribution and participation of civil society, community groups, academia, and each and every individual.

World Health Day 2010 is not a one-day event, but rather a long-term annual campaign based on cities’ needs and priorities. Community, government, nongovernmental organizations and all partners should join hands to identify gaps and find solutions for local problems.

Let's work together to make our cities healthier.

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