The WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities

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Outline

- Background
- The WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities
- Future directions
Real ageing is just beginning


Proportion 65 and over

Japan
Spain
USA
China
India

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Real ageing is just beginning

Seeing population ageing as a burden on society

Figure 2. Old-age dependency ratio (number of people aged 65 and over per 100 persons of working age)
From burden to boon

- Health promotion across the life course – the importance of HEALTH

- Creating environments that foster engagement

- Access to age-friendly primary health care
  - Integrated
  - Screening, early detection and amelioration of chronic disease
  - Access to medications
  - Skilled and supported workforce
  - LONG TERM CARE (home and institutional)

- Rethinking ageing
Life Course Approach to Ageing

![Graph showing Life Course Approach to Ageing]

- **Functional Capacity**
- **Age**
- **Age of dependence**
- **Functional threshold**
Life Course Approach to Ageing

- Functional Capacity
- Age
- Age of dependence

Functional threshold
Life Course Approach to Ageing

![Graph showing functional capacity over age with age of dependence and functional threshold marked.](graph.png)
Age-Friendly Cities

Urban environments that promote active ageing
Key Themes of an Age-friendly City

- Outdoor space & buildings
- Transportation
- Communication & information
- Housing
- Respect & social inclusion
- Social participation
- Civic participation & employment
- Community support & health services
WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities

1. Joining the network
   - Involve older people
   - Baseline assessment of age-friendliness
   - Develop action plan
   - Identify indicators

2. Implementation
   - Implement action plan
   - Monitor indicators

3. Evaluate progress and continual improvement
   - Measure progress
   - Identify successes and remaining gaps
   - Develop new action plan

Ongoing 5 year cycles
WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities
Launch of the Global Network
June 28 2010
New York – a City for All Ages
http://www.agefriendlynyc.org
Early Action Improvements Implemented July 2008

Seniors given more time to cross the major street at 26 of the 43 intersections
Streetscape 1
Streetscape 1
Geneva – Public Spaces and Buildings

- Increase benches in streets and parks

- Make street crossings safer and increase crossing times

- Improve footpaths and lighting
Age-friendly Geneva – Public Spaces and Buildings

- Increase benches in streets and parks
  - New benches 165
  - Benches replaced or repaired 232

- Make street crossings safer and increase crossing times

- Improve footpaths and lighting
  - Enlarged 27
  - Renovated 24
  - Other improvements 90
  - New lighting 26
Network activities

- SharePoint
- engAGE WHO
- Planned Conferences
  - Dublin
  - Singapore
- Twinning
- Best Practices
- Languages
China: 1990

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Data Base.
China: 2050

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base.