

Final declaration of first National Conference on Urban Health

The First National Conference of Urban Health organized jointly by Tehran Municipality and Iran University of Medical Sciences (IUMS) in cooperation with number of organizations and NGOs along with active participation of academia, researchers, experts, authorities and Rah Pouyan-e-Salamt (Health assistants in Tehran Municipality). The conference was held on 24-25 April 2010 in Razi conference hall of IUMS. While emphasizing on this year's message of the Supreme Leader "redoubled diligence and redoubled work" in order to ensure health of citizens, also WHO's slogan for 2010 "Urbanization and health" has been stressed. Participants appreciated conducting of such a successful conference and request authorities for implementation of the following items:

- 1- Varieties of urban health threats indicate that intersectoral collaboration between governmental and non-governmental sectors is essential for urban health and health of citizens.
- 2- Six policy domains in piloting Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART), including physical environment and infrastructure, social, cultural, economical development; nutrition and governance and its related indicators could be the base of planning and intervention of different sectors to ensure health of citizens in urban development programme.
- 3- Considering challenges of urban life, it is proposed to re-engineer the health care delivery in urban area with approach of Social Determinants of Health – e.g. piloting of urban health management project in district 9 of Tehran.
- 4- Considering importance of social and mental health of citizens for having better healthy life, it is suggested to promote and include it as one of the priorities in urban management programme.
- 5- Regarding importance of early child development and its role in characteristic formation, intellectual ability and social behavior in adulthood, hence integrated programmes of early child development and health promotion should be a national priority in urban health development programme.

- 6- With regards to the significance of capacity building driving to changing behavior and empowerment of citizens in order to improve their health and health of community, it is expected that all relevant organizations like, Iran Broadcasting Network, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and other governmental and non-governmental organizations put health promotion as their priority based on evidence and prioritization process by community.
- 7- Since citizens' and urban health is affected by implemented programmes and projects, it is requested and expected from authorities to do health and environment impact assessment of the programmes in urban settings.
- 8- Empowerment of local communities in urban settings to develop Community Based Initiatives approaches is the main responsibility and mandate of municipalities for improvement of urban health. In this respect having one longterm comprehensive program should be planned and implemented.
- 9- Social security and health are two main elements of healthy community and sustainable security, which needs participation and productive interaction of citizens, organizations and responsible authorities.
- 10- Emphasizing on establishment of higher education courses in universities on urban health management field, formation of scientific urban health association in addition to establish urban health secretariat. The urban health secretariat will report the outcomes of actions on the declaration to the second conference.
- 11- Tehran Municipality should share successful experiences of urban health programme to other cities in Iran and as declared by WHO to be shared with interested countries in the region.