

7. PROMOTION OF URBAN HEALTH PROGRAMMES AS EVOLVING MODELS FOR INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION AND HEALTH ADVOCACY

7.1 Support for Healthy Cities in Namibia

On request from WHO-AFRO, staff from the Centre provided technical support to the Healthy Cities initiative in Namibia, through participation in a technical support workshop held in the capital City of Windhoek from 26 to 28 September 2006.

The Windhoek Healthy Cities Project was initiated in 1999. Since then a Healthy Cities Project Coordinator, and a steering committee have been appointed, and a budget allocated to the Project. Nevertheless, progress has been slower than anticipated, and WHO-AFRO was requested to support the Project through a Healthy Cities Capacity Building workshop. WHO-AFRO in turn requested technical support from WHO-EMRO and the Centre.

Specifically, the Centre made contributions through:

A presentation on the key Healthy Cities concepts.

A presentation on the process, experiences and lessons learned through the Healthy Cities project in Johannesburg.

Provision of relevant Healthy Cities materials, including: copies of a report on the Johannesburg Healthy Cities project; copies of the newly printed Healthy Schools case studies booklet; lead hazard awareness posters; lead hazard awareness fact sheets; Children's Environmental Health materials; Relevant published papers.

Participation in a working group to plan and draft the programme for the meeting.

Recording the workshop proceedings and drafting of the workshop report.

Advice on possible future processes and activities for the Healthy Cities Project in Namibia.



7.2 A Compilation of Case Studies on the Creation of Healthy School Environments

In partnership with the National Department of Health, a collation of case studies of Healthy Schools has been drafted. In particular, the case studies reflect instances in which school communities, in partnership with parents, local government departments and non-governmental organizations, have implemented relatively simple measures to improve the school environment and children's health. The case studies cover initiatives related to food security and nutrition, improved sanitation, substance abuse and anti-tobacco measures, communicable disease prevention, improved water supplies, personal hygiene and general upgrading of the school environment.

The National Department of Health will, together with the Department of Education, be distributing copies of the booklets to schools around the country, with a view to stimulating similar action across the nine provinces. The school principals from the schools where the projects were undertaken, have agreed to serve as advisors or resource persons for new initiatives, and their contact details are included in the booklet.

Both hard and electronic copies of the Healthy Schools booklets will be made available to WHO-AFRO for distribution in African countries.