

CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH URBANIZATION

PROGRESS AND ACTION

IN AFRICA

INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFER HOUSEHOLD FUELS

Some African cities have made significant strides in recent decades in switching to safer fuels.

- In Addis Ababa in 1980, for example, wood fuel accounted for 70% of energy used. Following a program to encourage the use of safer fuels, by 2000 wood fuel accounted for only 13% of energy use in the city. Wood was replaced mainly by kerosene and electricity, resulting in improved environmental health and the protection of 50 000 hectares of local woodland (Shanko and Rouse 2005: 31).
- In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, city authorities have improved increased electricity connections from 29% of dwellings in 1990, to 58% in 2003 (Martínez et. al.2008).

Household Travel Survey was undertaken among 50 000 households across South Africa in 2003, to understand the transport needs of households. The study findings contributed to the significant transport interventions implemented in South African cities in recent years, including in the Cities of Johannesburg and Cape Town (Walters 2008).



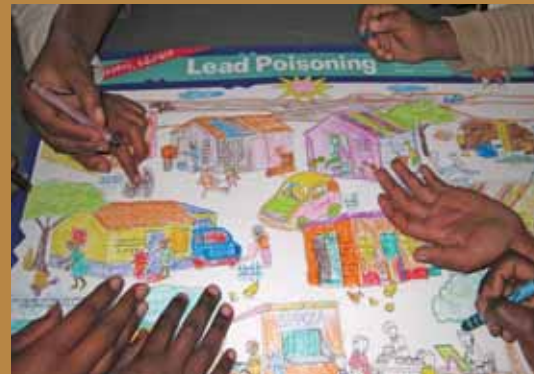
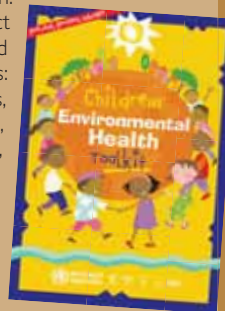
IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

In recent years, major efforts to improve public transport have been noted in several African cities. For example:

- a new rapid bus transport system is being implemented in Lagos.
- In South Africa there has been general recognition of the role of good public transport systems in increasing urban mobility, reducing road congestion, lowering environmental impacts such as air pollution and economic growth. A National

CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT

The African Region of the World Health Organization has developed an educational toolkit to facilitate awareness among school children of the links between the environment & health. The kit comprises fact sheets and associated activities on six issues: chemicals & poisons, accidents & injuries, indoor air pollution, lead poisoning, water safety, food safety. Field test undertaken in several African countries have yielded positive results.



Developing Toolkits to teach school children about the links between the environment & health

Clean-up campaign in Congo Brazzaville



Healthy cities workshop, Windhoek Namibia

THE WHO HEALTHY CITIES PROJECT

The approaches and processes recommended under the umbrella of the WHO Healthy Cities initiative are being used to address important urban health concerns in numerous cities in Africa, including Windhoek, Nairobi and Johannesburg.



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Africa



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Improved housing in Windhoek, Namibia



Creating healthy food markets



Planting fruit and nut trees, to combat food insecurity



World Health Day awards for urban health heroes



Food market in Kinshasa



Fruit & Vegetable Market

