

2nd WHO training on the urban health capacity assessment and response resource kit

Online training over 4 weeks on 17, 24 September and 1, 8 October 2026

Webinar duration: 4 online sessions, 2 hours each (14h00 to 16h00 Paris time, CEST), over four consecutive weeks, requiring 4 to 5 hours of additional off-line preparation. Sessions are recorded.

Objectives of the training

1. Primary:

- Develop awareness of cross-disciplinary capacities needed for urban health action and policy-making, including data analysis, policy coherence, community engagement and financing strategies

2. Specific:

- Build a cohort of professionals skilled in applying the Urban health capacities assessment and response resource kit
- Strengthen participants' ability to identify, assess, and address urban health challenges through a capacity-based approach
- Foster collaboration among professionals working in urban health and facilitate peer-to-peer learning

Agenda at a glance

Before the course: pre-course orientation

One week before Session 1 you will receive a welcome email and a short introductory video covering the structure of the training, the components of the Resource Kit, and a walkthrough of one completed row of the Step 1 table.

To prepare, please:

- Read: Primer and Action Guide
- Reflect: identify an urban health goal relevant to your context and the people who should be part of an assessment team
- If applying as a team: schedule a 30-minute debrief together

Session 1: Foundations: cities, connective capacities and the assessment process

Objective: Build a shared foundation: why cities behave as complex systems, what connective capacities are, and how an assessment works.

Date: 17 September **Time:** 14h00 to 16h00 Paris time

20 min.	Welcome, training objectives and how the training works. Word-cloud poll on your area of urban health, housekeeping, and introduction to the breakout groups.
25 min.	Meet your group. Introductions and team-building in your assigned breakout group, which stays the same across all four sessions, followed by plenary report-back.
10 min.	Why understand cities as complex systems? Elements, connections and purposes; why small changes can have large effects; how capacity gaps translate into health outcomes.
5 min.	Comfort break
20 min.	Unintended consequences. Share an example from an intervention you have worked on, and a project involving multiple sectors and governance levels, followed by report-back.

20 min.	What are connective capacities? Four capacity areas across individual, organizational and systemic levels, illustrated with city examples.
10 min.	Steps to conducting an assessment. Overview of the five steps and where to find sample timelines.
10 min.	Looking ahead to Session 2, homework and exit poll.

Session 2: City case study deep dive

Objective: Demonstrate real-world application of the Resource Kit through city examples analysed with the Action Guide tables, and a panel of guest facilitators.

Date: 24 September **Time:** 14h00 to 16h00 Paris time

5 min.	Welcome, session objective and agenda.
40 min.	City-example review with the Action Guide. In breakout groups, work through your assigned city example using the Action Guide tables: complete a Step 1 row (urban health goal, capacity areas and levels involved) and a Step 4 row (gaps identified and the response planned). Then discuss what stood out, what you would do differently in your own context, and what health outcomes were or could be achieved.
10 min.	Plenary report-back.
5 min.	Comfort break
45 min.	City facilitator panel. Rene Loewenson and Eunjeong Kang each give a 10-minute input on their experience implementing assessment and response exercises: what was achieved, what teams learned, and the challenges faced and how they were resolved. Followed by an open Q&A with both facilitators.
10 min.	Looking ahead to Session 3 and briefing on homework: prepare your role play and draft your local implementation plan.
5 min.	Exit poll.

Session 3: Role play: applying the kit in your context

Objective: Practice facilitating an assessment and response effort through role play and build confidence for local implementation.

Date: 1 October **Time:** 14h00 to 16h00 Paris time

10 min.	Welcome, recap and briefing on the role play activity.
50 min.	Role plays in breakout groups. Each participant presents either a pitch to form an assessment team or an introduction to the first assessment working session, and takes one follow-up question from a group member in a stakeholder role.
5 min.	Comfort break
20 min.	Plenary debrief. What felt natural, what was challenging, and what you would refine for a real context.
15 min.	Local implementation plan. Walk-through of the assignment, with one volunteer plan discussed and refined in plenary.
15 min.	Looking ahead to Session 4 and homework: finalise your local implementation plan and confirm your three immediate next steps.
5 min.	Exit poll.

Session 4: Action planning, peer feedback and closing

Objective: Present, refine and commit to a local action plan, exchange peer feedback, and close the training.

Date: 8 October **Time:** 14h00 to 16h00 Paris time

10 min.	Welcome to the final session and overview.
25 min.	Personalized action plan. Three to five participants share their plan in plenary and receive facilitator and group feedback.
25 min.	Peer feedback in pairs. Present your goal and implementation plan to a partner, ask reflection questions and offer constructive feedback.
5 min.	Comfort break
15 min.	Commitment board. Add or confirm your three immediate next steps, with a collective view of commitments across the cohort.
15 min.	Open Q&A and final reflections.
20 min.	Closing remarks and next steps. Ongoing support, the training-of-trainers opportunity, follow-up at 3 to 6 months, and certificates of completion.
5 min.	Exit poll and evaluation form.

After the training

Within two weeks of Session 4 you will receive your certificate of completion (subject to attendance and active participation in all four sessions, and to completion of the evaluation form), links to all training materials, contact details for peer networking, and an invitation to a follow-up Q&A session approximately three months after the training.