

20TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON URBAN HEALTH

A HEALTHIER HORIZON

Activating Urban Health Strategies for a Climate Resilient Tomorrow

ICUH 2024

Conference Report

Marrakesh, Morocco | November 18-21, 2024

March 2025



Table of Contents



- 01** Executive Summary
- 02** ICUH 2024 in Numbers
- 04** Conference Themes & Key Highlights
- 09** Attendee Experience & Feedback
- 10** Marrakesh as a Host City
- 11** Economic & Knowledge Impact
- 12** Social Media & Digital Engagement
- 13** Looking Ahead
- 14** Acknowledging Our Partners
- 15** Photo Highlights
- 16** Contact Information

Executive Summary

01



ICUH 2024, held in **Marrakesh, Morocco**, marked the **20th edition of the International Conference on Urban Health**. This year's gathering brought together global experts to address the intersection of climate resilience, urban health, and social equity. The event featured **diverse sessions, interactive discussions, and policy-driven conversations**, advancing **real-world solutions** for healthier, more sustainable cities.

Why ICUH 2024 Mattered

- **A truly global dialogue** - Urban health leaders from 50+ countries gathered to discuss solutions to pressing health and equity challenges.
- **Deep cross-sector collaboration** - The program engaged voices from academia, government, civil society, and the private sector.
- **Shaping the future of urban health** - Discussions focused on climate change, equity, mental health, and resilient urban systems.
- **A catalyst for action** - ICUH 2024 generated new policy insights, partnerships, and research collaborations that will shape cities worldwide.

A Word from Our Attendees

"This journey was about more than learning; it was about building networks, embracing new ideas, and contributing to a collective vision for a sustainable future for all."

- Koutar id Oufkir, High Atlas Foundation

"Collaboration between health professionals, policymakers, urban planners, and local communities is more critical than ever ... Thank you to all who attended and engaged with the conversation!"

- Glyn Richards, Bupa

ICUH 2024 in Numbers

Participation & Global Reach

360+

Attendees coming from

52 6

Countries and Continents

278

Speakers exploring **solutions for urban health, climate resilience, and policy**

Knowledge Sharing & Engagement

130+

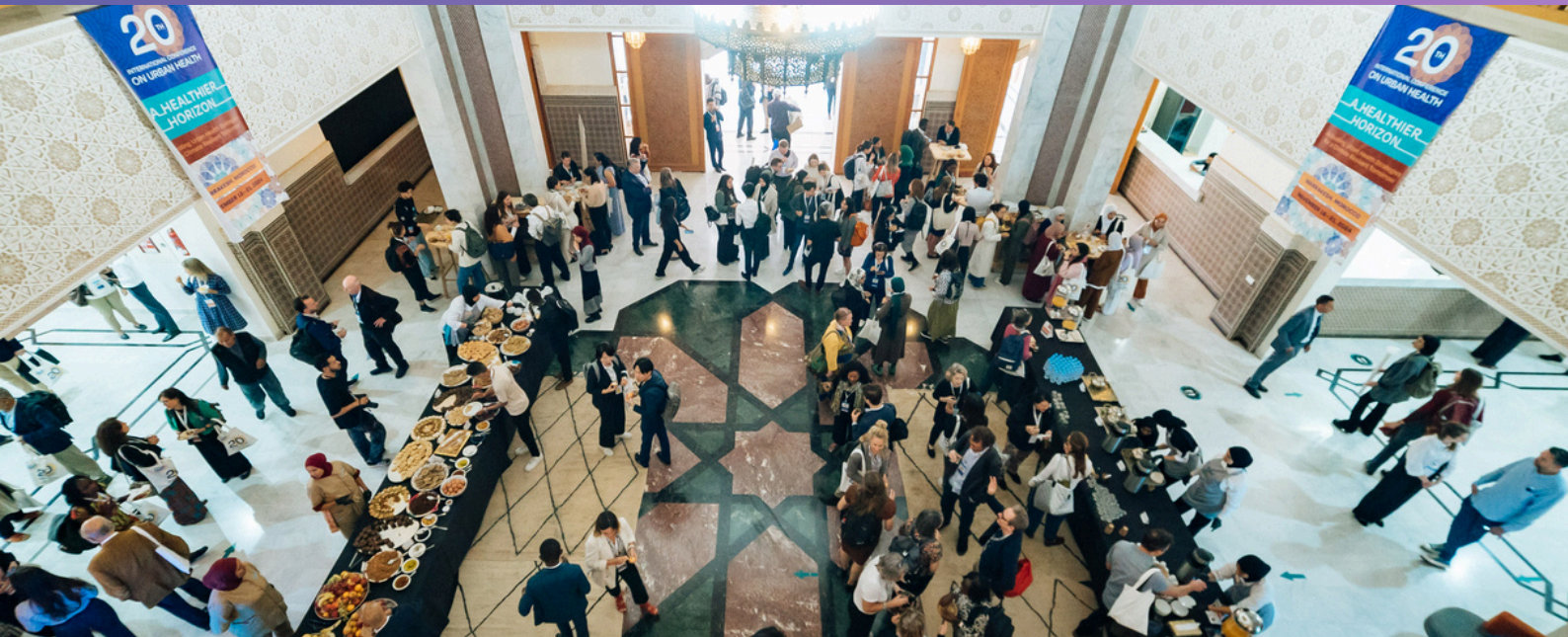
Workshops, presentations, & special sessions on **cutting-edge urban challenges**

6

Plenaries featuring **global thought leaders**

13

Social events & focused gatherings to support **cross-sector networking**



ICUH 2024 in Numbers

Cont'd



"A huge thank you to the ISUH team for this opportunity and for creating such an impactful space for dialogue and action. I am inspired by the collective passion and commitment to addressing urban health disparities globally. Looking forward to continuing these important conversations and driving meaningful change in public health."

– Angelina Uzor, MD, MPH, Physician

Conference Impact

\$738,800

total direct economic impact supporting local businesses and sustainable initiatives in Marrakesh



~350,000

social media impressions across platforms, amplifying the conversation globally



\$30,905

provided in scholarships to African Youth Climate Leaders



~1,472

collaborations initiated leading to new policy recommendations and cross-sector partnerships



Conference Themes & Key Highlights

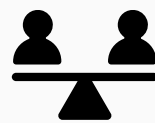
04

ICUH 2024: “A Healthier Horizon: Activating Urban Health Strategies for a Climate-Resilient Tomorrow”

ICUH 2024 centered around **six major themes** that reflected the conference’s commitment to advancing **climate-resilient, equitable, and health-promoting urban environments**.

These themes structured both plenary sessions and parallel discussions, providing a strategic lens through which participants explored actionable solutions.

2024 Themes



Equitable Urban Futures in a Changing Climate



Mental Health & Children’s Well-Being



Building Climate-Resilient & Adaptable Urban Environments



Strengthening Health Systems for Climate Action



Environmental Stressors on Infectious Diseases



Africa’s Path to a Climate-Resilient Urban Future

Deep Dive into the ICUH 2024 Themes



Theme 1

Equitable Urban Futures in a Changing Climate

This theme examined the growing disparities intensified by climate change, especially in underserved urban communities.

Key sessions explored:

- Urban policy frameworks for inclusive growth
- Resilience-building strategies led by grassroots organizers
- Climate adaptation funding for low-income cities
- Community-driven engagement for resilience



Theme 2

Mental Health & Children's Well-Being

This theme aimed to address the emotional and psychological toll of climate disruption on young people, emphasizing early intervention and cross-sector care models.

Key sessions explored:

- Creating child-friendly, trauma-informed urban spaces
- Community-based mental health programs
- Creative expression as a healing tool
- Strategies for supporting mental health in urban settings
- Addressing trauma and stress caused by climate events



Theme 3

Building Climate-Resilient & Adaptable Urban Environments

This theme explored designing healthier cities through sustainable infrastructure, mobility, and land use.

Key sessions explored:

- Urban greening, heat mitigation, and flood control
- Retrofitting informal settlements
- Data-driven urban planning tools
- Innovations in green infrastructure and urban design
- Nature-based solutions for sustainable health outcomes



Theme 4

Strengthening Health Systems for Climate Action

This theme focused on enhancing urban health systems' ability to anticipate, absorb, and recover from climate threats.

Key sessions explored:

- One Health frameworks connecting human, environmental, and animal health
- Emergency preparedness in cities
- Intersectoral collaboration for climate-health planning
- Public health infrastructure adaptation for climate change



Theme 5

Environmental Stressors on Infectious Diseases

This theme discussed the dual role of health systems in mitigating climate change and adapting to its effects, and improving public health infrastructure and services to ensure resilience and equity in urban health delivery.

Key sessions explored:

- Climate-informed disease surveillance systems
- Resilient health infrastructure development
- Low-carbon healthcare delivery
- Health systems emergency preparedness
- Innovative financing for climate health interventions
- Community healthcare networks



Theme 6

Africa's Path to a Climate-Resilient Urban Future

This theme looked to elevate concepts and knowledge from African leadership and innovation in urban health.

Key sessions explored:

- Urban health policy innovation in African cities
- Morocco's leadership in climate adaptation and health equity
- Spotlight on Morocco's Ministry of Health & Social Protection
- Panel on Dakar, Johannesburg, and Rabat urban projects
- Strengthening Afro-centric urban health framework

Plenary Moments



Each plenary offered a **high-level exploration** of our conference **themes** in a **dynamic mix** of keynote presentations, panel discussions, & audience Q&A



Plenary 1

Global Trends Shaping Equitable Futures



Plenary 2

Mental Health & Children's Well-Being



Plenary 3

Resilient Urban Environments



Plenary 4

Health Systems & Climate Action



Plenary 5

Infectious Disease Shifts in Warming Cities



Plenary 6

African Innovations in Urban Health

Plenary Speakers

- Karabi Acharya, ScD
- Ann Aerts, MD, MPH, DTM
- Samy Ahmar
- Oumnia Anfer
- Mamka Anyona, MIH, DrPH
- Gary Belkin, MD, PhD, MPH
- Yossef Ben-Meir, PhD
- Youssra Biare, MPH, MA
- Abdellatif Bouazza, PhD
- Jo Ivey Boufford, MD
- Emilia Carrera, MPH
- José Luis Castro
- Fofana Diakaridia, PhD
- Carolyn Daher, MPH
- Omaima Khalil El Fanne, PhD
- Oumaima El Idrissi
- Fatiha El Moudni
- Zeina ElZein, PhD
- Elvis García, DrPH, MPH
- Robert C. Hughes, MD, MPH
- Rachel Huxley, PhD
- Emeka Iloegbu, MPH
- Julian A. Macrone
- Sinah Magolo
- Carlos Moreno, PhD
- Charity Mumbi Mwangi
- Kate Murphy
- Joy Mutai
- Tolullah Oni, MPH, PhD
- Jonathan Oriki, BSc.Med
- Maria Clara Pinheiro
- Sindhu Ravishankar, MPhil
- Glyn Richards
- Nathalie Roebbel
- Leslie Rubin, MD
- Sarah Ruel-Bergeron
- Francoise Schaezel, MD
- Goodson Shalubala
- Rachel Tolhurst, MPH
- Cathryn Tonne, ScD, MPH
- Angelina Uzor
- Rachid Wahabi

Attendee Experience & Feedback

ICUH 2024 fostered an **engaging** environment where professionals from **diverse** fields **connected** to **exchange** knowledge and ideas.

4.7/5

Overall event rating based on participant feedback surveys



Most Valued Sessions

- From Epidemiological Evidence To Policy Action: The Role Of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) In Urban Health Initiatives
- Measuring Health Impacts In Public Space, Policies And Interventions
- Leaving No One Behind: How To Bridge The Gap Between Knowledge And Action In Urban And Territorial Planning To Enable Age-Friendly Cities And Communities
- Implementing A Strategic Approach To Urban Health
- Visualisation Tools For Knowledge Translation Of Complex Agent-Based Transport And Health Modelling Outputs
- Gehl & Cities For Better Health Special Session: Foodscapes Mapping: Assessing Built Environment Quality And Its Impact On Food Behaviors
- Networking Lunch: Strategies For Training The Next Generation Of Urban Health Champions
- Addressing Urban Inequalities Through Community Based Participatory Approaches
- Youth Roundtable: Leading Healthier, Climate-Resilient Cities (Majlis)
- Urban Informal Settlements, Climate And Health Equity In African Cities

Marakkesh

as a Host City



Marrakesh was a significant choice for ICUH's 20th edition, reflecting **the city's commitment to sustainable urban development and climate adaptation.**



The conference was hosted at the **Museum of Water**, a **cultural and educational institution** exceptionally aligned with ICUH's mission.



Additional venues across Marrakesh provided **unique settings** for sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities.



"In Marrakech, I had the chance to reconnect with dear friends...It was equally exciting to meet new faces and forge connections that I'm sure will shape future collaborations ...I can't wait for the next ICUH in New Zealand!"

-Ángela Freitas, Urban Health Researcher

Economic & Knowledge Impact

ICUH 2024 generated substantial economic and academic impact

\$588,800

Total participant spending in Marrakesh

3.7x

Return on investment for the city

\$738,800

Total direct economic contribution

~1,472

New collaborations initiated

89

Global organizations in participation

Social Media & Digital Engagement

LinkedIn Growth

+739 ✨

New followers

+32,374 ✨

Impressions

+222.7% ✨

Increase in engagement

Email Activity

81% ✨

Average
open rate

+500 ✨

New subscribers

24,300 ✨

Impressions

Website Engagement

+91,000 ✨

Visits during the
conference month

+6,000 ✨

Unique visitors

+16,000 ✨

Page views

Looking Ahead

13



Get Ready for ICUH 2025!

The 21st edition of the conference will build upon the momentum of ICUH 2024, expecting to bring together an even broader coalition of urban health professionals and policymakers from across the globe.

The 2025 theme, **Healthy Cities, Resilient Futures: Weaving Climate Action, Equity, & Wellbeing from Asia Pacific to the World**, centers around diverse perspectives from across the **Asia-Pacific region (APAC)** while fostering global exchange, abundant networking opportunities, a wider range of sessions and learning opportunities, and more offerings to support deep dives into the city.

Key Information

Conference Dates

November 17-21, 2025

Main Venue

Tākina, Wellington, New Zealand

Call for Papers →

Submission Deadline: May 17

Registration →

Early bird pricing until August 1

Join the Movement for Healthier Cities!



Stay engaged with ISUH beyond the conference by becoming an **ISUH Member**. Membership is perfect way for people who are active in the global Urban Health sector or who are just breaking into the field to gain access to *special networking experiences* at ICUH and beyond, plus a *members-only discount on conference registration*, and more. Learn about all of the benefits of becoming an ISUH Member [here](#).

Acknowledging Our Partners

ICUH 2024 would not have been possible without the generous support and collaboration of our partners. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to advancing urban health and equity worldwide.

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Photo Highlights



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16



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