

HCN Accomplishments: Sur, Oman



[Healthy Cities Network](#)

Sur HCP Progress & Accomplishments

Overview

The evaluation visit to Sur has shown the heights city officials and community members have reached in their efforts to meet the requirements of the HCP. Sur has a unique vision pertinent to their implementation of the HCP, which is primarily focused on an environmental approach (e.g. driving sustainable development and establishing a health-enabling environment). Therefore, the primary objectives in Sur are to raise public awareness about the main health, social and environmental issues, and to promote intersectoral collaboration and community participation in planning and implementation of needed interventions. Upon the visit's conclusion, it was found that Sur has met the requirements of the 80 WHO indicators and is therefore eligible for Healthy City accreditation. Sur's core achievements are described below:

Infrastructural Modifications

Stemming from efforts pertinent to the HCP, additional walkways dedicated solely to women (due to a cultural need for privacy) in Sur were paved, and preexisting walkways were renovated accordingly. Furthermore, green areas containing facilities for physical activity were established alongside the construction of green parks specially designed to accommodate the elderly, children, and families.



Health Promoting Schools

The Health Promoting Schools initiative has launched a program aiming to reduce obesity through the enhancement of physical activities and healthy nutritional habits. Schools also adopt skill development programs, such as gardening, which is reinforced through the inclusion of teachers and parents. A joint initiative in collaboration with the National Food & Nutrition Authority has been implemented to reduce obesity among students and impressive results have been achieved so far.

Community Health Center

In an attempt to reduce the burden of NCDs in Sur, the health center performs active screening for early detection and management of non-communicable diseases along with raising public awareness about the risk factors. Furthermore, there is a PHC center that brings together all the elements of PHC including: comprehensiveness, quality, accessibility, acceptability, and affordability of health services for their defined catchment population through a family practice-based approach with basic diagnostic measures (x-ray, mammography and ultrasonography). The family medicine specialists cover the families in their catchment areas and provide health services related to pediatrics, nutrition, mental health, NCDs and internal medicine in addition to regular visits of orthopedics (two times per week) to the center from the local hospital. The center provides comprehensive PHC services to nearly 500 clients per day (that makes 5-6 visits per person per year). In an attempt to respond to the community needs and improve the provided services, the Sur center respects the right of the patients and assesses their satisfaction with each visit in addition to establishing a complaint box that is checked regularly and suggested solutions provided by relevant staff. The staff satisfaction is also assessed on annual basis. Treatment protocols based on the international standards are available in each clinic and accessible to all staff.



Sur Health Profile

Sur is an environmentally friendly city with many projects in collaboration with the Sur municipality to improve environmental health and prevent pollution. Many vocational and skills training programs have been conducted in the context of HCP to support microcredit projects in coordination with the Center for Social and Community Development. Also, a city health profile has been developed that comprehensively describes Sur in terms of geography, demography, population distribution, social and health information, infrastructure, environment, education, culture, and different related interventions.

Furthermore, many age-friendly initiatives are implemented under the umbrella of HCP through healthcare centers that provide their services to the elderly in addition to home visits.

An emergency preparedness and response plan has been developed by 2 active parties: the health emergency department and civil defense institution. The civil defense institution has a unit dedicated to training and volunteerism with a very active role in volunteer training and organization.

The HCP & Sur City Officials

Among the key salient features that were noticed in Sur's HCP interventions are the high levels of political commitment at the ministerial, governmental and community level, well planned coordination mechanism, community involvement, motivated and trained volunteers, well equipped facilities, efficient HIS, and continuous monitoring and supportive supervision from all parties and stakeholders.



Sur's Community-Based Information Committee

The Community-Based Information Committee in the context of HCP has very effective role in:

- Knowledge transfer with the community and other relevant sectors/partners.
- Use of key information for advocacy and monitoring purposes by the local community, development committee and other stakeholders.
- Documentation of baseline data, updated results, and information on current projects.

