

# Developing a Municipal Health Policy

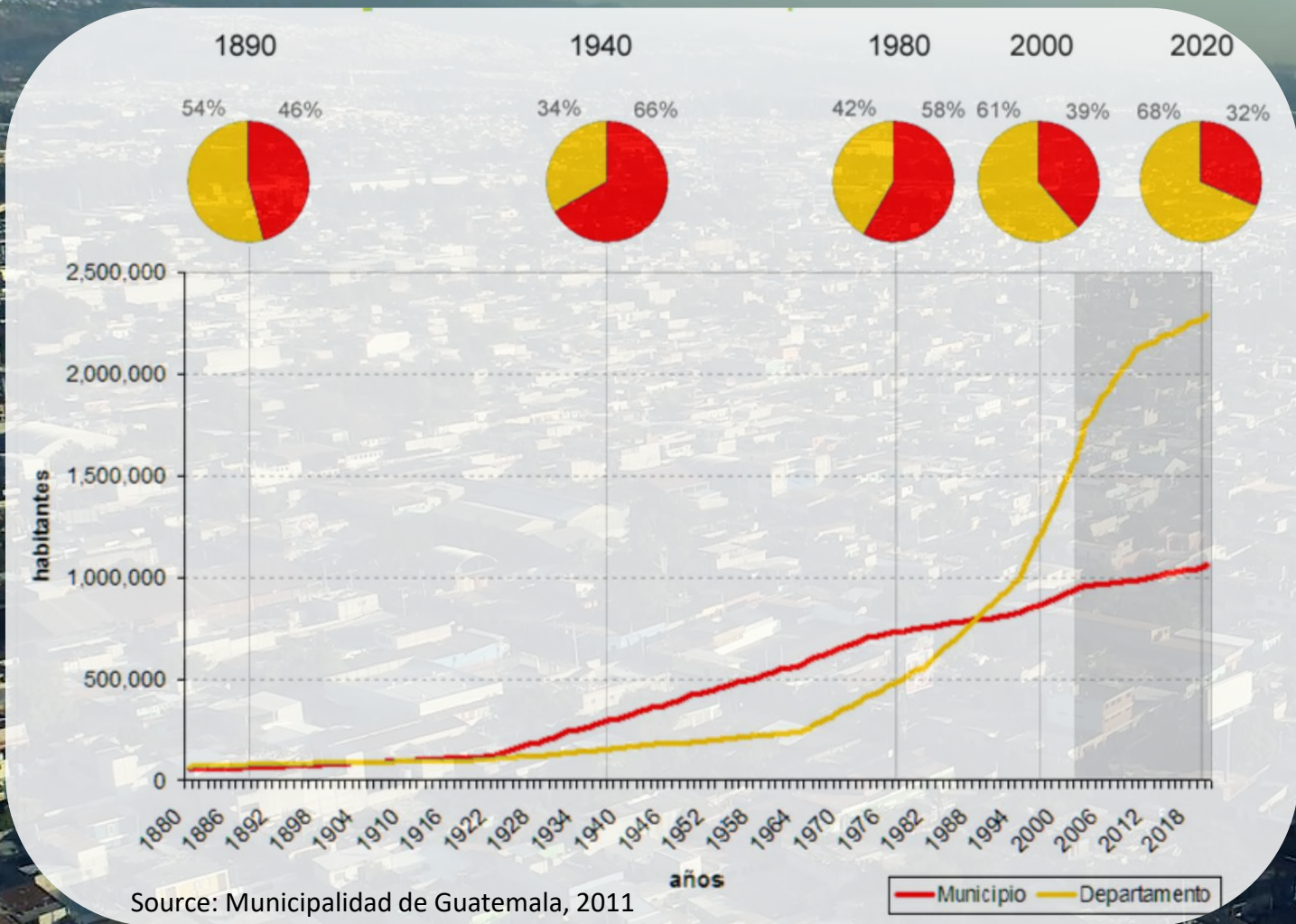
Using the Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART)

The experience of Villa Nueva, Guatemala

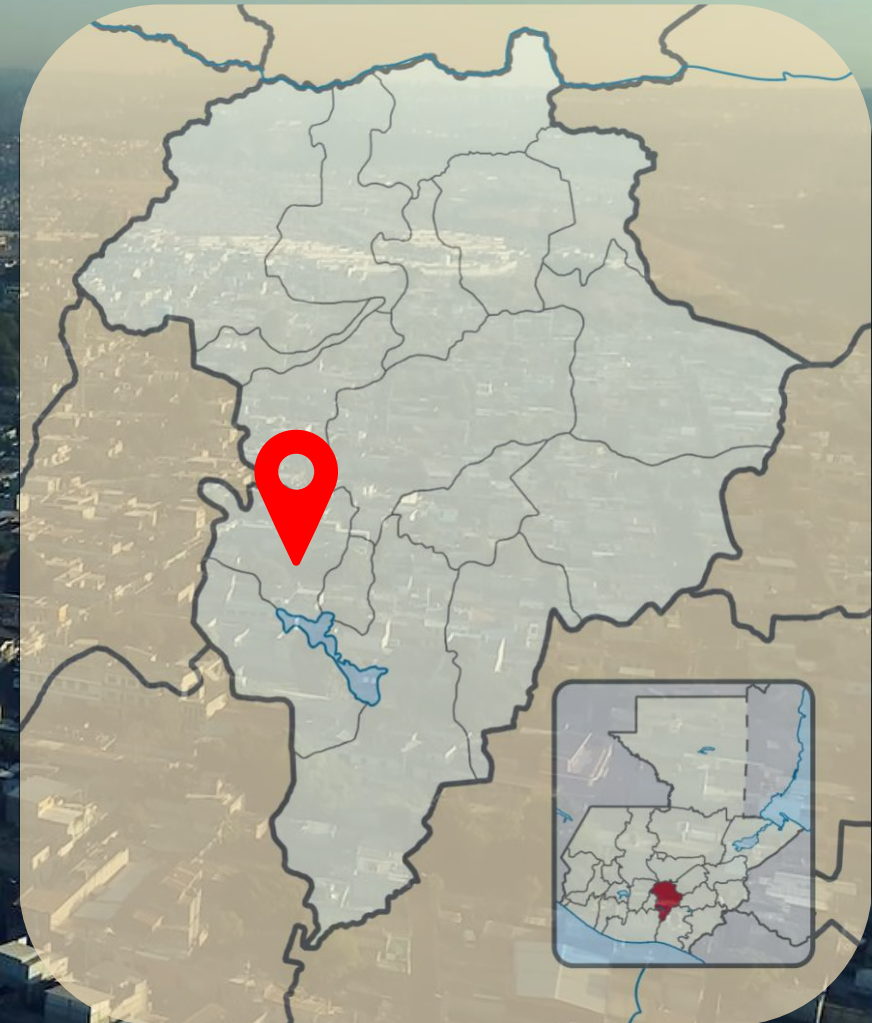
Guillermo Hegel  
Municipal Health Directorate  
Villa Nueva, Guatemala







Source: Municipalidad de Guatemala, 2011



**Rural to urban in less than 30 years**

1976



2006



*Source: Villa Nueva Planning Department, National Institute of Statistics, 2002*



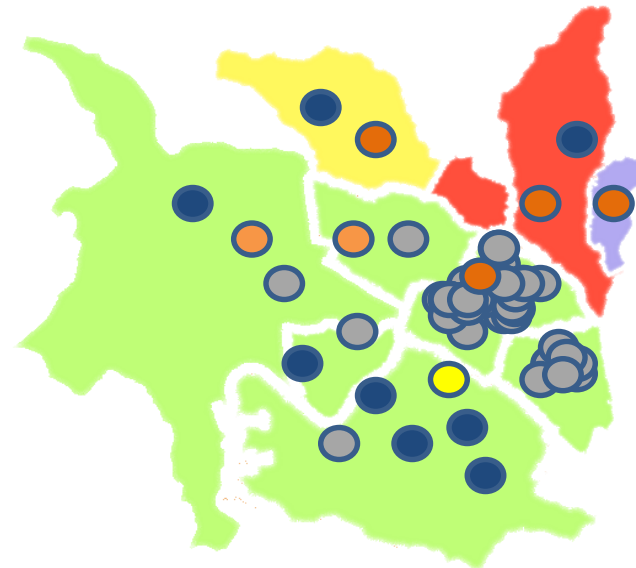
# Local Health System of Villa Nueva

Municipality of Villa Nueva  
Health providers

Low  
population  
coverage

Low  
financial  
protection

Limited  
service  
coverage



Health Providers

- MoH/Public
- Social Insurance/Public
- Private for-profit
- Municipality/Public

MoH Districts

- Ciudad Real
- Mezquital
- Peronia
- Villa Nueva

## Core responsibilities of municipalities

- clean water supply
- roads
- public transport
- waste management
- sanitary control
- municipal pharmacies
- city planning
- other matters related to the organization of the territory

## Municipal Health Services Network, Villa Nueva

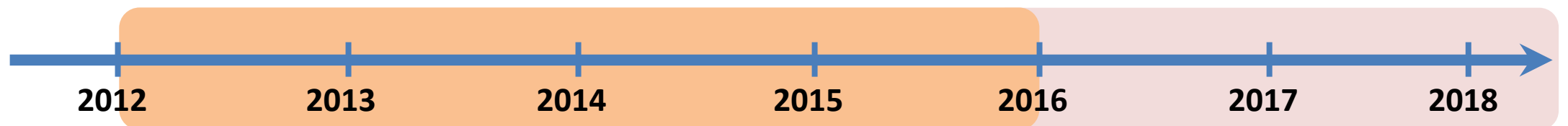


## 1<sup>st</sup> strategic choice: health services

- High public demand
- Complementary services
- Supportive communication with MoH
- Results: Improved access, but less than expected

## 2<sup>nd</sup> strategic choice: join forces

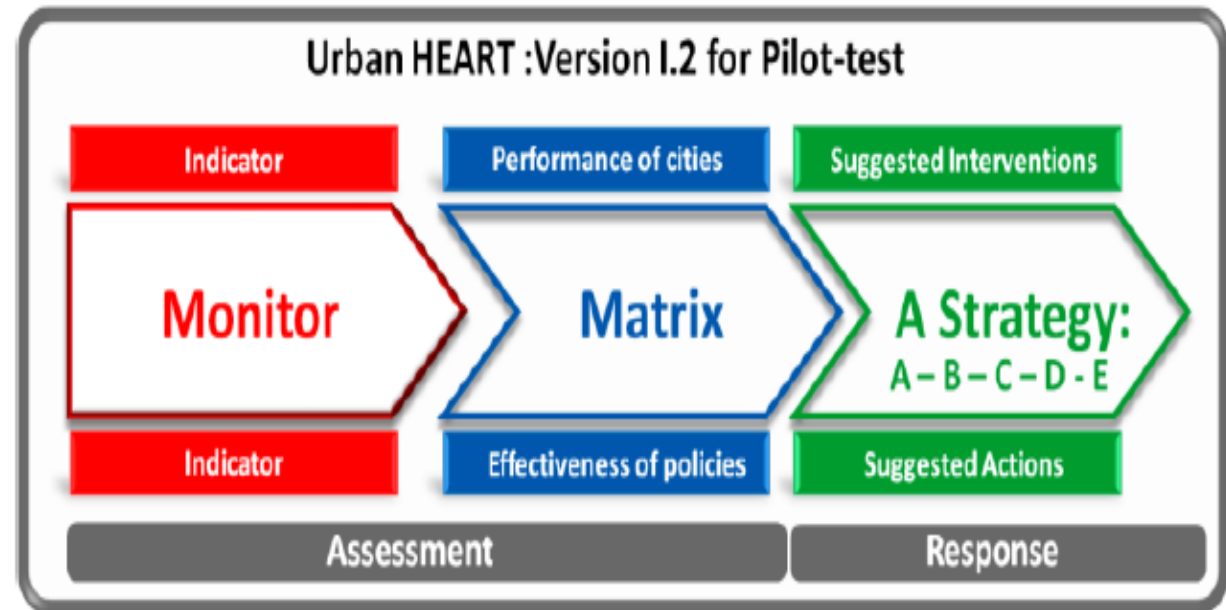
**Improve relations** with main actors at all levels to **strengthen and integrate** the LHS and develop a **common strategy** to reduce health inequities and achieve UHC



# Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART)

Developed by WHO Development Centre

- comprehensive and based on a participatory approach
- links evidence to actions
- easy to use
- operationally feasible and sustainable



Main components of Urban HEART (adapted from WHO Center for Health Development)

Source: Khobreh et al.

# Core Indicators Urban HEART



## Health Outcomes

Infant mortality  
Diabetes prevalence  
TB detection rate  
Road traffic injuries



## Physical environment & infrastructure

Access to safe water  
Access to improved sanitation



## Social & human development

Skill birth attendance  
Fully immunized children  
Completion of primary education  
Prevalence of tobacco smoking



## Economic development

Unemployment



## Governance

Government Health  
Expenditure on Health



# Villa Nueva municipal health policy: a health-in-all policies approach through Urban HEART

- (1) Build an inclusive team
- (2) Define a local indicator set and benchmarks
- (3) Assemble relevant and valid data
- (4) Generate evidence
- (5) Assess and prioritize health equity gaps and gradients

## Challenges

- *Lack of data*
- *Lack of institutional support*
- *Legal and administrative context*
- *The Urban HEART team*
- *A time-consuming approach*

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

# Urban HEART easy to use?

- Interaction with multiple partners at many levels (local, regional and national)
- Political support needed
- Step-wise process?
- Time consuming
- Expertise required
- Multiple agendas needs to converge





## Urban HEART, comprehensive and participatory?

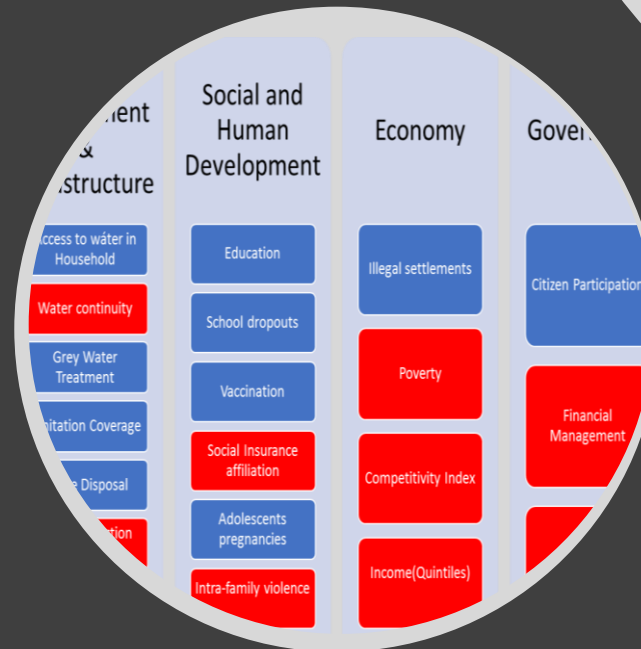
- Agenda setting
- Organization of an inclusive team
- Bottom up approach?
- Who leads the process?

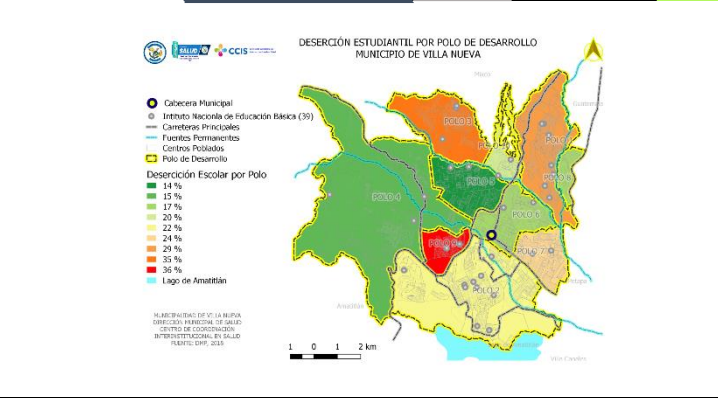
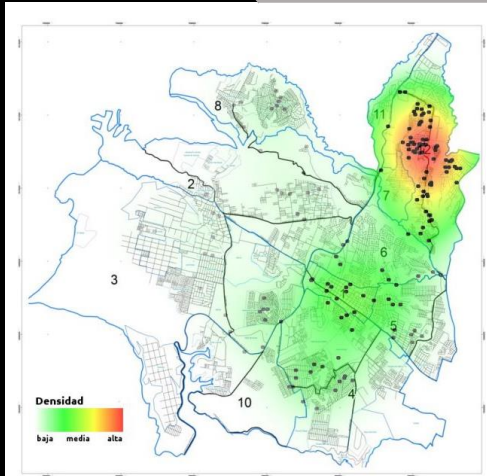
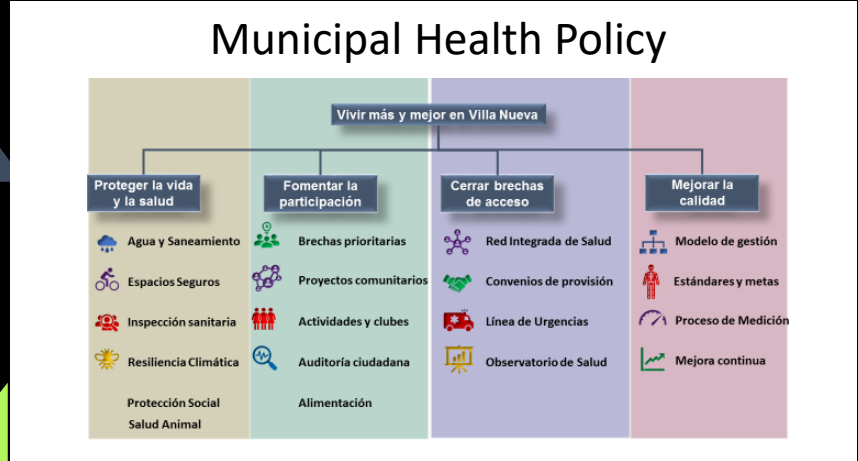
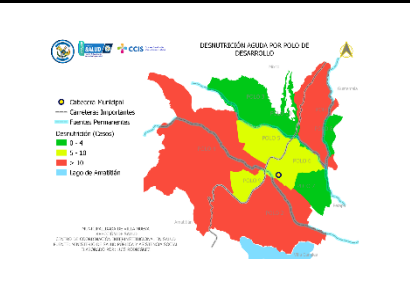
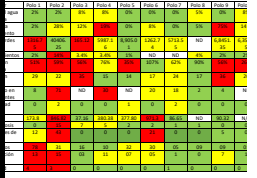




# Urban HEART, operationally feasible and Sustainable?

- Data availability
- How to integrate Urban HEART to the planning cycle?
- Administrative and political obstacles
- Participation vrs. Empowerment?





| Instituto                     | 1    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Instituto con mayor desercion | 38   | 38   | 44   | 22   | 19   | 21   | 34   | 20   | 55   | 20   |
| Instituto con Menor desercion | 15   | 9    | 20   | 8    | 14   | 14   | 12   | 13   | 24   | 20   |
| Promedio                      | 29.0 | 22.0 | 35.0 | 15.0 | 14.0 | 17.0 | 24.0 | 17.0 | 36.0 | 20.0 |

## Urban HEART, Links evidence to action?

- Identification of inequities and prioritization of needs
- Embedded into multiple agendas
- How to consider the view of vulnerable groups?
- Qualitative + quantitative methods



# Lessons learnt



Iterative cycles are iterative cycles



During the process, reorientation of goals is often needed



Expert guidance for the process is relevant



Engaging in a participative approach is a long term process



Actors internalizing the perspective of health equity is probably one of the best outcomes



Identifying gaps of information is as relevant as existing information

# Thank you for your attention!

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