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| **Promoting health equity in Matsapha through evidence based action** |
| **Setting/problem**Matsapha is small industrial urban area in Manzini region of Eswatini. It is mainly comprised of the large industrial and small medium to low density residential area home to about 6 100 residents. However there is an extensive periurban informal settlement with a population of over 35 000 people. These people rely on the municipality of Matsapha for employment and basic services. This settlement arrangement has impacts on health in particular health equity. In a bid to improve the health status of the residents of the wider Matsapha area there was need to identify and analyse inequities in health between people living in various parts of the town or belonging to different socioeconomic groups within the town. **Intervention**The World Health Organization Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (Urban HEART) was then used to identify strategies for urban health equity. An inclusive team of stakeholders was built, local indicator set and bench marks defined, relevant and valid secondary data were assembled to generate evidence on health equity gaps in Matsapha. Multisectoral evidence based strategic plan of action for addressing urban health equity gaps was developed and implemented. Some of the activities implemented include, Matsapha mobile clinic, peri-urban waste collection programme, healthcare waste management zone Siphilile maternal and child health programme and crime prevention forum. **Outcomes**There was raised political commitment for urban health equity. Intersectoral action for health was also enhanced. Lesson learnt include: 1) Urban HEART is a platform to engage multiple stakeholders in identifying and planning action on health inequities, encouraging intersectoral action and community involvement; 2) There is need for standardized and integrated data collection as there was lack of data on some of the identified indicators particularly disaggregated data and data specific to Matsapha; 3) Involvement of all key stakeholders from the start is essential particularly the high profile decision makers to obtain political buy in for ease of implementation The impact of the implementation is yet to be evaluated.**Implications**To ensure sustainability of the Implementation of Urban HEART in Matsapha, there is a need to improve intersectoral collaboration, ensure financial support, conduct better surveillance of equity data, design proper interventions, and conduct evaluation and monitoring of the project.  |