

The WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) was established in 2010 to connect cities, communities and organizations worldwide with the common vision of making their community a great place to grow older in. The mission of the [Network](#) is to stimulate and enable cities and communities around the world to become increasingly age-friendly.

Through the Network's on-line platform "[Age-friendly World](#)", members access tools and resources that can guide and support their age-friendly work and exchange and learn from each other. Network members are also supported by [21 Affiliates](#) that play an essential role in promoting the creation of age-friendly environments and facilitating information exchange and learning between communities.

Given the extensive experience of Network Affiliates and members, there is an opportunity for more experienced leaders to mentor those that are new to this work. Recognizing the invaluable benefits that Mentorship programmes provide, the WHO set up, with support from the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), the Age-friendly Environments Mentoring Programme (MENTOR-AFE) to help develop and strengthen skills and competencies of individuals through one-to-one mentor-mentee relationships.

The programme generated a high number of requests which could not be fully met through the mentor-mentee programme. To respond to the demand, WHO and IFA have developed another initiative under this programme: [Age-Friendly Environments \(AFE\) ECHO](#) – a multi-session learning cycle, developed and guided by the needs of mentee applicants and aligned with approaches and guidance from WHO on age-friendly cities and communities.

On behalf of the WHO and IFA it is a pleasure to invite new and emerging leaders of age-friendly cities and communities from around the world to participate in this innovative and exciting learning opportunity: the [third edition of the AFE ECHO Program](#). The program will provide a safe environment where participants can share knowledge and learn from experts and other learners through collaborative problem-solving, to gain the skills necessary to advocate and drive the age-friendly model within their own city and/or community.

Program Curriculum Topics

The AFE ECHO is a multi-session learning cycle comprising of 5 one-hour sessions from 8.00 – 9.00am PHST ([click here to see the time in your time zone](#)) taking place bi-weekly over a 2-month period from 15 October to 10 December. Participants are expected to attend all sessions, as the experience and knowledge is cumulative. Additionally, after each session there will be a 15 minute optional Q&A session during which attendees can consult with the expert Hub Team. Members include Dr. Mikiko Kanda from the World Health Organization and Dr. Kathleen Brasher from La Trobe University.

Using Zoom video conferencing participants are welcome from around the world, with this learning cycle to be held in English. The identification of session topics has been informed, developed and guided by the needs expressed and desired capacities of previous Mentor AFE program applicants and previous AFE-ECHO participants.

Session 1 | The Age-Friendly Journey: An Introduction | 15 October 2024

Learning objectives:

- Improve understanding of the importance of age-friendly environments in the context of a life-course approach to healthy ageing and in response to key megatrends – urbanization and demographic change
- Understand the history and key features of the WHO Age-friendly Communities Framework and programme cycle

Session 2 | Engage and Understand | 29 October 2024

Learning objectives:

- Describe mechanisms to build a network of stakeholders
- Describe steps to identify the needs of the older population
- Understand the steps needed to analyze the challenges and opportunities in a community and define priorities for action
- Describe strategies used to influence and inform the political commitment for age-friendly initiatives.
- Describe what successful engagement looks like and the anticipated outputs

Session 3 | Plan Strategically | 10 November 2024

Learning objectives:

- Describe the purpose, process and key success factors in delivering an age-friendly strategy and action plan.
- Describe the steps needed to develop a comprehensive strategic plan
- Understand the importance of defining common objectives, aims, targets and stakeholder responsibilities
- Identify strategies for securing support and resources;

Session 4 | Act and Implement | 26 November 2024

Learning objectives:

- Understand the importance of consulting on the action plan and involving older people at all stages;
- Describe the process for designing a successful action plan;
- Understand the steps needed to implement an action plan; and scale up successful action
- Understand the importance of learning from successful action in local, national and international networks

Session 5 | Monitor and Evaluate Progress | 10 December 2024

Learning objectives:

- Describe the steps needed to monitor processes continually;
- Understand the principles needed to undertake both outcome and impact evaluations;
- Describe strategies for sustaining and improving action informed by evidence

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Please contact Elizabeth Lewis at elewis@ifa.ngo should you have any questions or would like any additional information about the Age-Friendly Environments ECHO Program.