UN⊕HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

SAFER CITIES PROGRAMME
A Safer and Just City for All

www.unhabitat.org/safercities

With fifteen years of experience, the Safer Cities programme has implemented effective urban safety programmes in 53 cities and towns in 24 countries around the world. The approach embraces a more holistic and participatory solution to reduce or prevent crime and violence. It supports cities and towns in adopting city-wide urban safety strategies and action plans, building on socially inclusive and participatory approaches that contribute to a safer and just city for all.

The Poor, the Main Victims of Crime and Violence

Urbanization, particularly in the developing world, has been accompanied by increased levels of crime, violence and lawlessness. The growing violence and feeling of insecurity that city dwellers are facing daily is one of the major challenges around the world. In some countries, crime and violence have been exacerbated by the proliferation of weapons, substance abuse and youth unemployment. Global studies show that 60% of all urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime, at least once over the past five years, 70% of them in Latin America and Africa. Without a deliberate effort to address this situation, the prospects of future development and poverty reduction are limited.

"... The feelings of fear and insecurity end up controlling and restricting women in their social and economic activities. It limits their freedom and fundamental rights. Most women restrict their activities because of the fear of being vulnerable. This reduces their level of community participation and makes them more vulnerable to be victims of crime."

Cookie Edwards,
Director of the KZN Network on
Violence Against Women, March 2008

Crime and violence have impacts on everyday life of city residents. Women and children are often the most affected, especially when fear hinders their access to services. The impacts of crime and insecurity restrict urban social and economic development, and often jeopardize opportunities and pro-poor policies.

Launched at Request of African Mayors in 1996

Safer Cities Programme, which has been run by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, was launched in 1996 at the request of African Mayors seeking to tackle urban crime and violence in their cities. The Safer Cities approach was initially developed in collaboration with the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), the European Forum on Urban Safety (EFUS), a network of over 300 cities, and with research institutes such as the South African Institute for Security Studies (ISS).
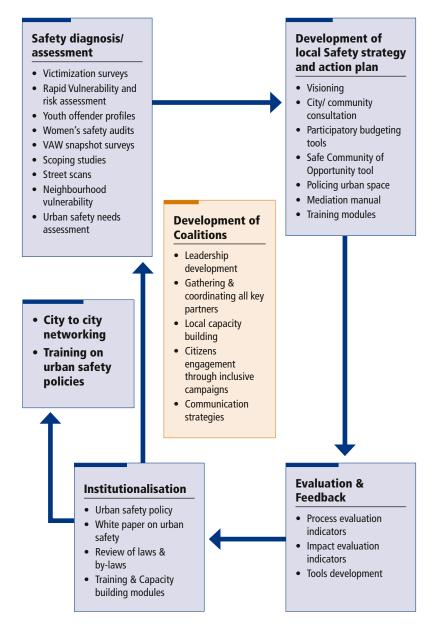

Safer Cities victimization surveys conducted in Papua New Guinea showed that market places are the most insecure, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. © UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT Safer Cities Services on the Ground

Local authorities have a key role to play in addressing the rising public demand to reduce crime and violence. Success depends on partnerships between local governments and other stakeholders. Therefore, UN-HABITAT Safer Cities supports local authorities in developing and implementing crime and violence prevention strategies using a systematic participatory approach:

- Identifying and mobilizing diverse local partners who can contribute to reduce and prevent crime and violence;

- Creating a local safety coalition/partnership led by a public leader, ideally the Mayor;

- Assessing, measuring and understanding the local safety and security problems;

- Developing a local crime prevention strategy and a detailed plan of action;

- Implementing the local strategy through initiatives that address the fears of crime by improving social cohesion and community engagement in prevention;

- Institutionalization of the local participatory approach by incorporating security as a cross-cutting dimension in decisions in the various departments of institutions such as local government, the criminal justice system and civil society. The strengthening of institutions working in violence and crime prevention often requires training and coaching, institutional reform and improving urban safety policies.

FIGURE 1: **Safer Cities approach, tools and services**

Safety diagnosis/ assessment

- Victimization surveys
- Rapid Vulnerability and risk assessment
- Youth offender profiles
- Women's safety audits
- VAW snapshot surveys
- Scoping studies
- Street scans
- Neighbourhood vulnerability
- Urban safety needs assessment

Development of local Safety strategy and action plan

- Visioning
- City/ community consultation
- Participatory budgeting tools
- Safe Community of Opportunity tool
- Policing urban space
- Mediation manual
- Training modules

Development of Coalitions

- Leadership development
- Gathering & coordinating all key partners
- Local capacity building
- Citizens engagement through inclusive campaigns
- Communication strategies

- **City to city networking**
- **Training on urban safety policies**

Institutionalisation

- Urban safety policy
- White paper on urban safety
- Review of laws & by-laws
- Training & Capacity building modules

Evaluation & Feedback

- Process evaluation indicators
- Impact evaluation indicators
- Tools development

Safer Cities helped to construct a bridge which made it safer for children to go to school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. © UNESCAP

Global Advocacy and Partnership for Safer Cities

Safer Cities has been organizing and promoting regional and international debates on urban crime prevention within its international network of partners. This has resulted in the creation of a *Global Network for Safer Cities*. The role of the Global network will be to advocate for urban safety and local crime prevetion all over the world. The Global Network is a reference for local, national and regional authorities to address the current and future challenges cities are facing. The Global Network intends to go to scale targeting multiple countries and selected cities and resorting to an inclusive coalition of stakeholders enhancing urban safety. This will contribute to:

- Exchange of know how and experiences on urban crime and violence prevention among cities and citizens;

- Transform societies to be more inclusive and participatory, and, by extension, to further social cohesion;

- Spreading a culture of crime prevention.

> **Crime Prevention**: "comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes."
>
> 2002 United Nations Guidelines
> for the Prevention of Crime

Impact of Safer Cities in Durban (South Africa), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and Nairobi (Kenya)

BEFORE Safer Cities interventions	AFTER Safer Cities interventions
A culture of apathy among the citizenry in community safety	Increased participation of the citizenry through the adaptation of the Safer Cities tools by the private and civil society sector.
Urban poor perceived as holding the greatest responsibility of crime and violence	The perception of the urban poor as the major offenders of crime changed when the crime victim survey results were disclosed which showed the main victims of crime and violence were the poor.
Youth perceived as a problem and the youth crime problem addressed through criminal justice system	Youth increasingly incorporated as part of the solution and as resources to the community safety and cohesion through Safer Cities art and sport programmes

HIGHLIGHT: **The personal story of Mr. Bernard Ongeso –
Transformation from youth crime into social
justice work in Nairobi, Kenya**

I have lived most of my life in the Eastlands slum in Nairobi working as a garbage collector. For several years, I engaged in crime including car jacking and murder and was severally arrested by the police and kept in custody.

But my life changed one day when I encountered UN-HABITAT Safer Cities that was holding a concert in my hood called "Looking to the East – a Safer City". I was introduced to one young man from Geneva, who was involved in UN-HABITAT Safer Cities. He established an organization called Kilimanjaro Initiative that every year organizes climbs to the mountain. I was invited to join the climb and met very high-level people. It surprised me that I was talking with people I never imagined could talk to me because of their rank in society. This begun changing my perception in the way I saw the society. I came back to my neighbourhood with greater self-esteem and started working closely with the City Council of Nairobi on its Safer Nairobi Initiative to which I was introduced by UN-HABITAT. I also participated in an International Youth Crime Prevention and Cities Summit in Durban to which I was invited by UN-HABITAT. Returning to my community, many young people could not believe it was

Girls and boys conducted safety mapping in Madanpur Khadar, New Delhi, India. © UN-HABITAT/Jagori

me whom they had seen as a gangster- leave alone the police who were very surprised but kept encouraging me. Formerly a gang member; self-confessed but now reformed, I have now dedicated my time to mobilizing youth, through positive action and community projects. I have now established a car garage and work full time also for the Kilimanjaro Initiative. My life has changed for ever, and is changing many other young people who see me as a role model, thanks to the Safer Cities approach that has given me a second chance in life.

HIGHLIGHT: **A collaborative approach in India improves
women's safety**

In 2009, Safer Cities partnered with Jagori, a Delhi-based women's resource centre, to support a Youth and Girls Safety Project in a resettlement area in New Delhi. The project works with both boys and girls in 1) reclaiming public spaces for recreation, theatre, and sport events, and so on 2) advocating and raising awareness for girls' safety through developing and disseminating community radio and community theatre and photography. Other project partners involved were: civil society organizations, women's groups, youth leaders and government officials. The actions taken contributed to:

- An outreach of 2,355 households through the project;
- Increased mobility of the young girls and women and they now confront issues of harassment on the streets;
- Active engagement of young women and men in conducting safety audits and up-grading of public space in the community;
- The ability of young women and girls to negotiate with the boys and young men on the use of public space in the community;
- The ability of young women and men to express themselves;
- The ability of young women and men to advocate and influence policy makers, media, urban planners, police and the municipality.

The project is now reaching out to more households and other communities and the model established is going to be replicated in other cities and towns in India. During focus group discussions, almost all of the parents said their daughters were more confident, and able to move around alone.

UN and Other Organizations Join Forces on Crime Prevention

The challenges facing cities with regards to the impacts of growing violence and insecurity are numerous and daunting. The need to address crime prevention in cities is apparent. The agency is facing these challenges in partnership with international partners, such as: Huairou Commission and Women in Cities International, the Inter-American Coalition on Violence Prevention, local government associations (CITYNET among others), and the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).
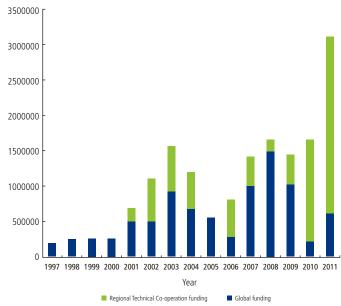
In addition, UN-HABITAT is working together with other UN agencies like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-BCPR) on the Inter-agency Armed Violence Prevention Programme; with UN-Women and UNICEF on the "Safe Cities free from Violence against women and girls" and on a joint project on "Safe and Friendly Cities for all" and with UNODC on the UN Guidelines on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
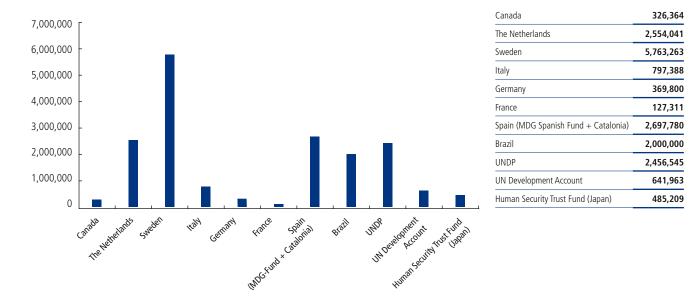

UN-HABITAT Safety and Upgrading Project in Korogocho Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. © UN-HABITAT

Sources of Funding

FIGURE 2: **Overall Safer Cities Funding Overview based on Technical Co-operation and Global Activities (1997 to 2013) (USD).**

Year	Global funding	Regional Technical Co-operation funding
1997	-	200,000
1998	-	260,000
1999	-	261,050
2000	2,805	263,525
2001	502,804	187,992
2002	505,609	600,980
2003	934,094	633,418
2004	687,289	508,844
2005	-	560,847
2006	302,364	517,284
2007	1,000,000	420,191
2008	1,493,588	161,578
2009	1,021,100	428,522
2010	221,500	1,432,951
2011	618,938	2,493,377

Canada	326,364
The Netherlands	2,554,041
Sweden	5,763,263
Italy	797,388
Germany	369,800
France	127,311
Spain (MDG Spanish Fund + Catalonia)	2,697,780
Brazil	2,000,000
UNDP	2,456,545
UN Development Account	641,963
Human Security Trust Fund (Japan)	485,209

Investing in Urban Safety

UN-HABITAT aims to build the capacity of urban, local and national governments and their partners in initiating effective urban safety policies for the poor. The Habitat Agenda acknowledges the responsibility of local authorities in preventing crime and violence and the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT gave UN-HABITAT in 2011 the mandate to develop UN Guidelines on Safer Cities.

Safer Cities approach is increasingly incorporated as an important solution to crime prevention. Safer Cities will continue to spearhead the urban crime prevention approach. To develop the Safer Cities objective, the global main initiatives from 2012-2016 includes: UN Guidelines on Safer Cities; City to City Cooperation (learning and exchange between local authorities and communities); Global Award on Safer Cities; Global Safety Index for Cities; Global Safer Public Spaces Awareness Campaign; Global Social Media Portal on Safer Cities.

To advance the implementation of the Safer Cities programmes a supporting Tool Box and accompanying training modules for the Safer Cities Approach will be developed. This will support local and national governments to develop hands-on, practical skills to implement effective urban safety programmes with and for the poor.

In addition, Safer Cities will help municipalities and local governments to respond to new visions, demands and challenges in urban safety. This will contribute to the reduction of crime and violence in an innovative and pro-active way. Funding of USD 15 million is required to implement the Safer Cities global and regional activities planned for 2012-2016.

If you are you interested in contributing to Safer Cities, please contact info.rmu@unhabitat.org and visit ***www. unhabitat.org/safercities***

LIST OF KEY PARTNERS

Belgian Development Agency

Corporación de Estudios Sociales y Educación (SUR) Chile

Crime Prevention Centre of the CSIR (South Africa)

Darua - International youth-led Urban Development Platform

Dutch Youth Council (Netherlands)

EAFIT University (Colombia)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (Canada)

Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN)

German Development Cooperation (GDC)

Huairou Commission

Institute of Public Safety and Security (Barcelona)

Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV)

Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG-EA) Kenya

Italian Co-operation

Jagori - (a women's training and resource centre) India

Leo Lagrange (France)

National Crime Prevention Council (Canada)

National Crime Prevention Council (United States)

Prefeitura da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro

Sida (Swedish International Development Agency)

Small Arms Survey (Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva)

Swedish National Police Board

The Asia-Pacific Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET)

The European Forum on Urban Safety (EFUS)

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), South Africa

The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC), Canada.

The REMIX project, Canada

The Royal Government of the Netherlands

The World Bank (Latin America Division)

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

UNESCAP (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

University Alberto Hurtado (Chile)

University Institute of Architecture (Italy)

University of Melbourne

Urban Sociology Laboratory (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, EPFL/LaSUR)

Women in Cities International (Canada)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Scouts Bureau

Countries where Safer Cities is present.

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UN-HABITAT is the United Nations body mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

For more information:
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
P.O. Box 30030, GPO Nairobi, 00100, Kenya
www.unhabitat.org

Contact us:
General Inquiries: Tel: +254 20 762 5420 / infohabitat@unhabitat.org
Inquiries on Safer Cities: safer.cities@unhabitat.org.
To contribute to Safer Cities: info.rmu@unhabitat.org.

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