

# URBAN SAFETY AND SECURITY

**Safer Cities** is grounded in the instruments of local government that promote good governance, appropriate urban planning and management as tools to address crime, violence, conflict and insecurity in cities and human settlements. It is a multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary approach implemented on a community-based citywide scale, focused on stakeholder inclusion and collaboration to ensure safety and security for all.

## THE CHALLENGE

- Poorly planned and managed urbanization, particularly in the developing world, has stoked increased levels of crime, violence, and lawlessness.
- Globally, one in five people has been a victim of violence and crime.
- 60 per cent of all urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime, where women, young people and those lacking security of land tenure are more vulnerable to risk.
- Research points to inequalities, lack of institutional control and social exclusion (not poverty) as the underlying causes of crime and violence in urban areas.
- The impact of crime and insecurity limits urban social and economic development.

## UN-HABITAT'S APPROACH

UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme was established in 1996 to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to use good governance, appropriate urban planning and management in the prevention and reduction of crime and violence at the local level. The Programme promotes the notion that **better-connected, integrated and compact cities are also the safest cities.**

The Safer Cities' Programme presents good governance and safe cities as reciprocal: **when inhabitants are free from fear, interaction among people, among groups and with public institutions becomes possible.**

This creates an enabling environment for the city's inhabitants to engage in activities that improve quality of life, and promotes economic development.

The Safer Cities approach has evolved into an integrated crime prevention and urban safety approach underpinned by three pillars:

- *Institutional crime and violence prevention* – including legislative and enforcement frameworks;
- *Social crime prevention* – including addressing youth at risk and women and girls safety; and
- *Situational crime prevention* – focusing on the physical environment.

It integrates urban crime prevention principles into safety-conscious urban development interventions aimed at reducing urban vulnerability, promoting the integration of cross-cutting safety issues and a transformative approach to implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

*It follows a systematic participatory process* - in developing and implementing crime and violence prevention strategies by:

- Identifying and mobilizing diverse local partners;
- Creating a local safety partnership or coalition led by a public leader, ideally the mayor;
- Assessing, measuring, and understanding the local safety problems;
- Developing a citywide crime prevention and urban safety strategy and a detailed plan of actions as part of city development and growth strategies;
- Implementing the citywide strategy through initiatives that work to prevent crime by improving social cohesion and community engagement; and
- Institutionalizing the local participatory approach by incorporating security as a cross-cutting dimension in the decision-making process.

**60%**

of all urban residents in developing countries have been victims of crime, where women, young people and those lacking security of land tenure are more vulnerable to risk.

**1996**

The year in which UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme was established, to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to use good governance, appropriate urban planning and management in the prevention and reduction of crime and violence at the local level.

**Globally, one in five people has been a victim of violence and crime**



**20%**

● Victims of violence globally

## IMPACT

- The Safer Cities Programme has implemented safety and security programmes in **77 cities and towns in 24 countries worldwide.**
- The Programme has further built the **Global Network on Safer Cities**, a network of partners and cities using its tools and approach, ranging from built environment design, **social integration and cohesion**, to **inclusive city policies.**
- The programme has **evolved its approach** informed by a **continuous learning process** from work on the ground.
- Best practices drawn from the programme over the past 20 years are now being translated into new UN System-wide guidelines on **Safer Cities**, and positioned as part of the implementation plan for the **New Urban Agenda.**

CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 
<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 						
<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 						
<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 						

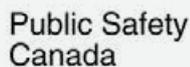
**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 
		<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 
		<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 
		<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 

The Safer Cities Programme draws on the **SDG 11** “Making Cities and Human Settlements Safer” and in particular its **Target 11.7** on Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces.

The Safer Cities approach provides for this **Goal 11** to be read together with **Goal 16** on Peaceful and Just Societies, as well as **Goal 5** on Gender and **Goal 17** partnership mobilization.

DONORS AND PARTNERS



REDUCED CRIME AND VIOLENCE

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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