

*“Crime Prevention encompasses strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crime occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence its multiple causes”.  
UN Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime*

Photo by Rafael Leao



*UNODC and UN-Habitat bring together a wealth of expertise on crime and violence reduction, urban safety and city planning to support local governments in the development and implementation of community-based, comprehensive and multi-sectorial plans for crime prevention that emphasise the co-production of safety for all.*

*Through this joint project, UNODC and UN-Habitat contribute to the achievement of SDG11 related to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and settlements, as well as SDG16 on peaceful and inclusive societies and institutions, especially its targets related to violence-reduction.*

## URBAN CRIME PREVENTION AND SAFETY

Evidence-based policies for improved community safety in Latin American and African cities



For further information, please visit our website and contact the UNODC Justice Section at [crimepreventionandcriminaljustice@un.org](mailto:crimepreventionandcriminaljustice@un.org)



**UNODC**  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## UNODC - UN-HABITAT COOPERATION

While urbanization brings with it economic growth and prosperity, it also presents a range of challenges. As cities often experience numerous crime and violence problems, including robberies, drug and human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, gang-related violence and organized crime, it is important to devote sufficient attention to effective and innovative crime prevention in urban settings. In an effort to support Member States to prevent crime and promote safety at the local level, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) join forces building on their comparative advantages in the field of safety and crime crime prevention. This collaboration led to a joint project entitled «Evidence-based policies to improve community safety in Latin American and African Cities». Funded by the United Nations Development Account and implemented in the cities of Cali (Colombia), Durban (South Africa) and Querétaro (Mexico), the project aims to promote community safety.

Local safety audits offer an in-depth picture of local crime trends and risk factors, provide a basis for the development of evidence-based strategies targeting distinct groups, including at-risk youth and gangs, and for the strengthening of local, government-led crime prevention and urban safety policies.

## OBJECTIVES

UNODC and UN-Habitat support local governments in conducting local safety audits that actively involve community stakeholders in the collection and analysis of crime data and other relevant sociodemographic, economic and geographical information at the local level. Ultimately, the project seeks to promote the development and monitoring of local government-led crime prevention and urban safety policies and programmes that take into account methodological advances in addressing crime and victimization challenges in urban areas. Project activities are framed around two main objectives:

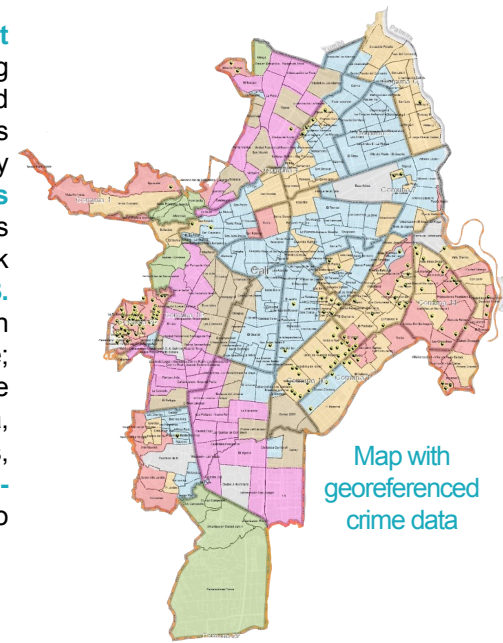
1. Improving the capacity of the three cities to collect and analyse crime-related data using a participatory approach, and measure progress towards achieving security and safety-related development targets at the local level;
2. Enhancing the capacities of local government actors to develop and implement knowledge-based crime prevention and safety policies and programmes.

### United Nations Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making them Work

“Community, or locally-based crime prevention, instead of targeting individuals, targets areas where the risks of becoming involved in crime or being victimized are high. (...) Such programmes work to increase the sense of safety and security of the residents... to respond to community concerns and crime problems affecting the population and to increase the services and social capital or social cohesion in the community.”

## ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **Safety audit reports** containing key findings from the analysis of local crime and victimisation trends, and a set of recommendations for policy-makers of local governments to effectively address crime problems; 2. **Online portals** displaying the findings of the safety audits, maps with georeferenced crime data, and a framework of indicators to monitor crime-related trends; 3. **Development of local policies and initiatives** on crime prevention and safety informed by evidence; 4. **Strengthened capacity of local actors** for the collection and analysis of crime-related data, design and monitoring of crime prevention policies, including South-South cooperation; 5. **Multi-agency approach** and coordinated response to crime problems set up at the local level.



*Building on the success of the project, UNODC and UN-Habitat will continue to undertake joint initiatives to promote community safety.*

