

Prospectus

# Safer Cities 2.0

## Vienna 2020 Roundtable

**Making cities safer for all**

# About Safer Cities 2.0

**Half the world's inhabitants live in urban areas. Cities hold out the promise of concentrated economic dynamism, predictable access to services, and opportunities for democratic citizenship—what we call *the urban advantage*. Yet for hundreds of millions of people on the wrong side of the breach of urban poverty and exclusion, crime, violence and insecurity have become facts of everyday life, denying them the benefits of the right to the city.**

UN-HABITAT established the Safer Cities Programme in response to this predicament, to empower local authorities and other stakeholders to strengthen urban safety and security, mainly in low- and middle-income countries. Safer Cities aims to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to use good governance, appropriate urban planning and management, and the reduction of acute vulnerabilities to crime and violence. Over the past 25 years, the programme has implemented inclusive urban safety and security programmes in over 70 cities and towns worldwide.

In the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-23 phase, the programme will aim to deliver *a measurable improvement in security for urban citizens globally*. Safer Cities will build a global network of local authorities to advance its systematic approach to improving urban safety and security for all, and champion that approach in the development policy debate. It will work to achieve tangible results in 10-15 beacon cities, establishing city safety labs and centres of excellence, scaling-up innovative initiatives to prevent and reduce crime and violence and improving the conditions for vulnerable urban constituencies. And it will expand investment in demonstrating and documenting results and producing a compelling evidence base to inform policy. Safer Cities will boldly and ambitiously endeavour to enable everyone to enjoy the urban advantage.

# Our approach

**The Global Safer Cities Programme launched in 1996, at the request of mayors. Over the past 25 years, we have rolled-out multiple local-level interventions in partnership with municipal authorities in low- and middle-income countries.**

The Safer Cities approach embraces a holistic, integrated and multi-sectoral approach to improving the liveability of cities and quality of life for all urban residents, predicated on the confidence that good urban governance, planning and management can contribute to improving the safety of neighborhoods. A rigorous citywide diagnosis of insecurity is used as the basis for developing a local government-led, community-based, partnership-driven, integrated strategy and action plan to tackle crime, violence and insecurity.

We are now undertaking a change process intended to consolidate and scale-up Safer Cities gains based on lessons learned from more than a decade of experience that informed the adoption of the UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements at the 1<sup>st</sup> UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019.

**Our value proposition:** We know cities. The Safer Cities Programme is uniquely positioned to deliver added value for cities in two areas: the development of a dynamic global normative framework for action on urban crime, violence and insecurity, based on the convening power and mandate of UN-HABITAT; and deployment of state-of-the-art technical and operational support for city-level interventions, based on the programme's 25 years of experience and established credibility. We shall work towards the continued development of the values of citizenship, taking into consideration the individual, family, school and community.

# Vienna 2020 Roundtable: Launching Safer Cities 2.0 prototype

**In 2015, Presidents and Prime Ministers committed to a bold plan of action for the planet, that included significant reductions in homicides and violent crime and enhancing safety in cities and human settlements before 2030. The plan for action at the UN General Assembly agreed to make transformations – not business as usual – to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The commitments to enhance city safety is contained in SDG 11 and to reduce violent crime is contained in SDG 16. In 2019, Member States at the 1<sup>st</sup> UN-Habitat Assembly also agreed to essential components to implement effective prevention strategies successfully at the local government level and subsequently adopted UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements. Informed by solid crime and violence prevention science demonstrated by cities, these guidelines seek to catalyse action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, building on the community of practice on safer cities over the past 25 years.**

Globally each year, half a million persons are murdered, twenty five million women or more are raped, and up to one billion children are victims of violence. The annual cost of this violence is estimated in trillions of dollars. These epidemic numbers can be cut by 50% by 2030, if governments take decisive action now to use tools that are known and agreed to prevent violence and crime. Governments have a special opportunity to act in the country peer review process for the implementation of the UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements currently under review of the Executive Board at UN-Habitat.

In October 2019, as part of the Urban Month, UN-Habitat will co-convene an International Roundtable Conference with the Government of Austria, other sister UN agencies led by UNODC, and partners in the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC). This will bring together leading visionaries, innovators, practitioners and policymakers to Vienna to share cutting-edge models, research and ideas on "Safer Cities 2.0: Actions for the creation of safer cities for all to the year 2030". A key outcome of the roundtable will be the agreement to build a prototype of a safer city 2.0 (city safety lab) in collaboration with a host government.

The benefits of making transformations now are massive as they will save thousands of lives, stop millions of rapes, and avoid hundreds of millions of child victims of violence. These will save billions of dollars and in high violence regions increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) significantly.

So, governments must take decisive action now to get the tools used. These must: increase awareness of the strategies proven to reduce crime and violence; develop and train the human capacity to use the guidelines for success; encourage cities to join communities of practice to learn from each others success; ensure ways to measure progress as what gets measured gets done; multiply more national prevention strategies that implement national plans, invest adequate and sustained funding, and demonstrate increases to economic growth.

The Roundtable topics will include:

- **Actions that are proven to have reduced crime by 50%**
- **The agreed essentials for successful and sustained use of prevention**
- **Cities that have already reduced violence by 50%**
- **Powerful Reasons to Make the Affordable Transformations to Save Lives and Taxes**
- **What We Need to do in the 2020's to Shift to a Prevention Agenda to Save Lives and Communities by 2030 in cities and human settlements**

# Opportunities and Advantages of Safer Cities 2.0

**Goal:** Deliver a measurable improvement in safety and security for urban citizens globally.

In response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in support of Goal 11 (on sustainable cities and communities), a multidisciplinary team of leading social scientists, planners, architects, and technologists, practitioners and policymakers will design the first Safer Cities 2.0 (City Safety Lab) in select cities including the host city of the Programme. A Safer City 2.0 is envisioned as a city that enjoys equal rights and opportunities, as well as guarantees its citizens fundamental freedoms; that provides adequate urban development and local governance, along with patterns of social and territorial inclusion; that provides a city-wide and participatory process to address the multiple causes and risk factors for crime, violence and insecurity in cities and human settlements, and to put in place the factors that protect against those causes and risks - creating the conditions for safer cities, by intervening to address the multiple causes of crime; by improving the quality of life and combating social exclusion and inequality in cities and human and by enhancing individual rights and promoting cohesive and engaged communities that appropriate collective spaces within the city, including through the use of urban planning, legislation and financing as levers of change. It also reflects a recognition that better urban planning and good urban governance are necessary but not sufficient to address crime and violence in and of themselves and must be accompanied by other risk-based interventions that target particular problems in specific places, with support from subnational and national government agencies.

This Safer City 2.0 offers many unique advantages. The design incorporates principles at the core of UN-Habitat's mandate and work, namely sustainability, adaptability, scalability, affordability and community inclusiveness.

The Safe Cities concept utilizes participatory planning, management and budgeting. The strength of Safe Cities lies not only in the potential for proposing a new model for sustainable communities, but also in building trust between communities.

Based on international and local level experiences, the following key areas have been identified as key strategic interventions to be addressed in the Safer Cities 2.0:

### **Global Impact**

The Safer Cities 2.0 is designed to build on the consolidated achievements, by sharpening the focus and establishing a truly global partnership capacity and outreach, building on a solid basis and foundation but permitting flexibility to address new challenges at the same time. The adoption of dialogue as a key tool for the implementation of an integrated and holistic approach to safety focus areas and the strengthening and harmonization of safety tools through documentation of good practices, extraction of lessons learnt, and exchange are critical elements. In addition, advocacy on urban safety will be promoted globally through monitoring, dialogue and strategic communication and messaging.

### **Dialogue and partnerships**

Safety is a multidimensional concept, and its determinants are evident in different sectors and encompass different dimensions including, social, environmental and institutional dimensions. Therefore, policies tackling safety from the perspective of prevention should gather a diversity of actors and competencies as depicted in the UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements. The dialogue for instance, between law enforcement actors and social development actors, or between governance levels (local and national) is of key importance. In this respect, the unique and strategic role and consequently added value of the UN as convening body needs to be built upon and reinforced, in order to harness the potential contribution of a diverse range of actors that will maximise the opportunities and benefits of dialogue between them.

## **Developing norms and a holistic approach**

Urban safety is a comparatively new field for development co-operation, and requires more in-depth analytical work on existing initiatives, their documentation and evaluation, in support of global exchange on these themes is required. The opportunity exists to develop agreed references to work across sectors and to integrate approaches of different disciplines, with the view to defining locally appropriate and globally relevant strategies for crime prevention.

## **Tool development**

At present, tools exist to address urban safety and security concerns at the local level, however they have generally been developed for specific contexts and limited reflection has been given to extrapolate general tools, approaches and practices for further dissemination. In addition, knowledge and experiences are largely located at the municipal level, with cities developing innovations and tools in direct reference to local problems. Harnessing such knowledge and expertise to evaluate, document and disseminate experiences and lesson learned to other actors, is key to the advancement of the urban safety agenda and the empowerment of local government to develop locally relevant policies. In addition, the availability of tools to address the concerns of the urban poor and other marginalised communities in terms of personal safety and the related local governance processes is often limited. No systematic initiative exists to assess gaps and needs and fill them through enhanced exchange, documentation and dissemination, as well as tool testing and development.

## **Awareness**

Awareness is a key strategic element of intervention and increased leverage for direct impact and is an important precondition of change. Issues of safety are usually high in political agendas, as well as on individuals' priorities, however, the conception of safety and security and requisite responses are often addressed through repression and control rather than addressing the issue from the prevention angle. Conversely, long-term sustainable impact on insecurity can only be achieved by tackling the root causes and changing attitudes towards insecurity from stigmatisation and gating, to solidarity and social cohesion. This requires a consistent information strategy, ensuring the availability of information on prevention strategies, approaches and key messages, highlighting the benefits of long-term responses and interventions, which benefit from everybody's contribution.



The critical dimensions outlined above, represent and structure the key activities of the safer cities 2.0 and outline the level and focus of strategic intervention. As highlighted in the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020 -2023, it is important to address safety as a cross-cutting theme for sustainable urban development, and therefore its further integration in urban development support strategies and interventions (NUA, 103) should be actively pursued. Recognising urban safety as a cross cutting theme and as a key component of progress towards sustainable urban development will complement efforts that have been made to place urban safety and crime prevention in the Security and Justice sectors at national level, as part of the broader efforts of UN-HABITAT for the inclusion of specific urban agendas in such strategies.

The expected outcomes of the programme include:

- Increased safety and access to public spaces for all.
- Increased citizen's active and meaningful participation in urban development and governance.
- Increased citizen's autonomous mobility in the city.

Who are the beneficiaries of Safer Cities 2.0? The *primary beneficiaries* are the local authorities of 100+ cities involved in implementing safety policies and programmes worldwide. But the *final beneficiaries* are the urban populations of those cities, who stand to benefit from better governance and urban planning and management, as well as efforts to ameliorate acute urban vulnerabilities, resulting in improved safety and security and more resilient cities.

The programme works across three levels of change:

- (1) with governments and institutions to influence municipal and national actors and policy makers to make laws and city services more receptive and inclusive to people's safety.
- (2) with families and communities to promote a supportive social environment that promotes individual's safety and inclusion in cities; and with citizens themselves to engage them to be active citizens and agents of change by building capacities, strengthening assets, and creating opportunities for meaningful participation

Safer Cities 2.0 builds on the overall safer cities methodology<sup>1</sup> which has previously proven successful, and seeks to enhance and catalyse it at a global scale, thereby preparing partners and technical cooperation projects to address awareness, policy assessment, demonstration/capacity building and scaling up at city/country level.

Three specific mechanisms are identified to catalyse partnerships:

- City to city collaborative networks – harnessing knowledge of cities for international capacity building – this will be supported through networking and tool development.
- Tool development networks with specific focus or constituencies (youth, women) to enhance a global toolkit for urban safety – this will be supported through networking and support to documentation and evaluation of tools
- Advocacy and dialogue, to enhance understanding and awareness of key constituencies, supporting dialogue through the convening of partners, and the production of strategic messages/communication materials, disseminated through global mechanisms (such as the World Urban Campaign).

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<sup>1</sup> The Programme methodology focused on learning and dissemination through a systematic approach consisting of (i) developing pilot projects, (ii) extracting lessons learnt, (iii) developing tools which will be further developed, tested and finalised, (iv) developing a strategy for dissemination, (v) exploring replicability and (vi) promoting replication and scaling-up will be adapted to delivery through partnerships.

# Prototype

**Safety has been at the core of city development for hundreds of years, dating as far back as the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century 'walled cities' concept to present day design and architecture of urban development models. Private sector entities are already actively building and selling safe city concepts to local and national governments as a key component of their smart cities model at a small scale, but there is no cohesiveness or sustainability in the production of these models. None have comprehensively addressed issues of planning, management, inclusiveness and sustainability at the large scale envision by "Safer Cities 2.0".**

As the UN entity mandated to lead on cities, both in developed and developing countries, UN-Habitat seeks to ensure city development actors are brought together to develop a prototype safer city 2.0. UN Habitat is mobilizing all relevant actors to ensure the entire ecosystem is harnessed to good effect and for the benefit of all citizens. The quest is bigger than designing a future city, in the long-term it is about designing the future of how society can organize itself into creative, safe and sustainable communities. This prototype will champion transformational change for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 11 and 16.

The prototype is envisioned at the neighborhood level on a citywide scale with core systems working in an integrated way. This prototype will integrate crime and violence prevention measures into urban strategies and interventions, such as in slum upgrading, urban regeneration, urban mobility, urban financing, among others. As the first fully integrated safer city model, it will propel the city as a positive source of urbanization and an engine of economic growth, livability and social cohesion.

# Benefits to the host city

**As part of the UN-HABITAT headquarters, the Safer Cities Programme normative and operational service supports cities and other urban stakeholders to utilize an evolving, integrated process for assessment of urban safety and security needs and deliberative development of policy and programming instruments in response. It is a demand-driven deployable capability to assist cities in reducing urban vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience.**

Powered by insights from the UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme's corpus of deep field experience, the 'Safer Cities 2.0' prototype offers municipal government partners a rigorous, systematic, and rapid means of generating understandings of local safety and an ensemble of field-tested tools to address the unique circumstances of a particular city. Programme personnel can be deployed to provide technical and operational support to cities, and link partners to supplemental knowledge, technical savoir-faire, and financial support. Key benefits to the host city will include:

- Strategic positioning as the global leader in the historic race to build the world's first safer city 2.0 model.
- Iconic architecture that will reposition host city as cutting-edge on safety and sustainability and an innovator in cities of the future.
- Increased job creation particularly for the young people.
- Increased revenue generation from local tourism.
- Enhanced technology innovation that is people centred and people driven: the prototype will act as an incubator for numerous innovations in technologies that will benefit the host city governance.
- Opportunity for host city to advocate to residents about the need for adaptation strategies for social integration and cohesion.
- Collaboration with leading international institutions at the cutting edge of safer cities innovations and good practices.

# A relentless focus on results

**Safer Cities 2.0 is the leading global champion of a comprehensive approach to urban crime, violence and insecurity. Its credibility and leadership rests on the quality of its evidence base. So, data collection and analytics will be at the heart of our work in the 2020 – 2023 phase, woven into the programme’s DNA. We will make a heavy investment in measuring results and assessing impact, in order to inform priority setting, shape the design of interventions, and understand the effectiveness of programming. Our aim is to amass a credible, incontrovertible base of evidence for the effectiveness of Safer Cities initiatives.**

Measuring results and assessing impact will enable Safer Cities 2.0. to capitalize on the stock of knowledge and produce an empirical evidence base that will be appealing to donors and convincing to policy-level partners at the UN and elsewhere. Key activities will include:

- Development of **common set of city and neighbourhood safety indicators** to be tracked across programme sites
- Investment in **local and national data collection capacities**, and strengthening the ability of local authorities to manipulate and analyze data
- Expanding knowledge on **what works in reducing urban crime, violence and insecurity**
- Conducting periodic **systematic reviews of policy and practice**
- Embracing an “open development” approach, making a rich cascade of data available an **online programme dashboard**

# Roundtable Actions

- *Identify multilateral venues to present and promote the partnership:*
- *Define criteria for prioritizing countries for implementation:*
- *Identify around 10 - 15 countries to pilot the partnership based on inventory of field presence and capacity, and relevant ongoing or upcoming activities:*
- *Implement pilot initiatives and prepare joint normative approaches*
- *Hold regular coordination meetings (virtual) to monitor the implementation of Plan of Action and explore new areas for joint programming and partnerships.*

## 1. Joint Programming Framework – Workplan/ Plan of Action

1. Global Level			
Functional Area	Thematic Area	Description of the Joint Initiative	Timeline
<b><u>Normative development of tools and approaches</u></b>	<b>UN-Systemwide Initiatives</b>	<i>UN System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development (CEB – HLCP): UNODC to provide full support to UN-Habitat as the lead in the UN system for the operationalization of this Strategy</i>	ongoing
		<i>UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements: Active involvement of UNODC in the Safer Cities Guidelines Implementation Framework led by UN-Habitat</i>	ongoing
	<b>UN-Habitat – UNODC</b>	Alignment of existing and development of new tools	ongoing

		and approaches on urban safety.	
<b><u>Research and Trend Analysis</u></b>	<b>Indicator Matrix – Urban Development</b>	City Prosperity Index. UN-Habitat is currently working on an indicator matrix and has reached out to UN entities, to be presented at WUF in February 2020. CPI includes urban safety indicators.	ongoing
		New Urban Agenda indicators framework (75 indicators, including a core set of urban safety indicators). These indicators are still being reviewed internally in UN-Habitat and will be shared with UN entities.	tbc
	<b>Indicator Matrix – Urban Safety</b>	Urban Safety Indicators for the Safer Cities Guidelines: UN-Habitat to share draft indicator framework with UNODC.	tbc
	<b>Data Collection, SDG Progress Monitoring</b>	Work jointly to improve data in relation to measuring progress towards the SDG, e.g. disaggregated data on safety, data on safe public spaces for women.	tbc
	<b>Data Collection, SDG Progress Monitoring</b>	Cooperation on data collection on SDG indicator 11.7.2 on physical and sexual harassment through sample surveys.	ongoing
	<b>Data Collection, Urban Crime</b>	Continue current disaggregation of data on homicide by major urban area into data collected by UNODC. UN-Habitat to	tbc

		share available data.	
		Involvement of UN-Habitat's networks of mayors for collection, monitoring and evaluation of administrative data on crime in selected cities worldwide.	tbc
<b><u>Advocacy, Coordination, Resource Mobilisation and Strategic Partnerships</u></b>	<b>Joint events/ meetings</b>	Organize and promote joint events in a series of global for a (WUF 2020, Crime Congress - CCPCJ, Africities, WUF 2022, etc.)	ongoing
	<b>Coordination in Networks</b>	Explore UNODC involvement in city networks on relevant issue areas facilitated by UN-Habitat.	ongoing
		Explore ways of UNODC engagement in UN-Habitat private sector networks.	tbc
	<b>Inter-Agency Coordination</b>	Explore joint work with International Finance Institutions and Development Banks.	tbc
	<b>Urban Safety</b>	Consolidate a toolkit of UNODC and UN-Habitat tools applicable to the urban context and based on mandates.	tbc
	<b>UN Development System coordination</b>	Undertake/ collect good practices and studies on corruption and public transport, corruption analysis of land use legislation to feed into UNSDG processes at country level (CCA, UNSDCFs)	ongoing
<b><u>Operational/ Technical Assistance</u></b>	<b>Anti-Corruption</b>	Explore joint work on corruption, money-	ongoing



		laundering in the real estate sector linked to affordable housing. Concrete actions: research on grand corruption in real estate and urban planning, expert group meeting.	
		Explore consolidation of analytical tools to use for laws on urban land use in connection to grand corruption.	tbc
	<b>Urban Safety</b>	Consider joint work focusing on safety in public transport in cities from a corruption, crime prevention and a gender angle, and its link to the criminal justice system; including road safety aspects.	tbc
		Explore use of new technologies in urban safety and addressing of crime.	tbc
		Mainstream urban safety into urban planning law assessment tool.	tbc
		Urban regeneration and slum upgrading/ affordable housing assessment tool.	tbc
		Joint resource mobilisation strategy for urban safety governance initiatives in pilot cities.	Tbc, in conjunction with advocacy measures
	<b>Crime Prevention</b>	Explore community policing as an area for joint work building on existing joint tools on urban policing.	tbc
	<b>Crime Prevention, Drug Use</b>	Build on UN-Habitat's One-stop Youth Centre Model and urban regeneration/	tbc

	<b>Prevention, Youth</b>	slum upgrading work to strengthen cooperation on youth empowerment in urban settings in connection to safety and security and health promotion.	
	<b>UN Development System Coordination</b>	Working group modality to prepare data for the CCA and strategic priorities for UNSDCF Framework.	tbc
<b>2. Regional Level</b>			
<b>Functional Area</b>	<b>Thematic Area</b>	<b>Description of the Joint Initiative</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
<b><u>Research and Trend Analysis</u></b>	<b>Data Collection, SDG Progress Monitoring</b>	Contribute jointly to regional knowledge or data platforms being established (led by DCO and Regional Economic Commissions and/or regional UNSDG).	ongoing
<b><u>Advocacy, Coordination, Resource Mobilisation and Strategic Partnerships</u></b>	<b>UN Development System Coordination</b>	UNDS Reform at regional level, joint support to RCs through regional UNSDG structures, e.g. through joint documentation, knowledge management platforms, regional reporting mechanisms, case studies, Issue-Based Coalitions.	ongoing
	<b>Inter-Agency Coordination</b>	Explore partnerships between UNODC, UN-Habitat and specific Regional Economic Commissions, e.g. ECA, ESCWA, to work on urban safety governance in cities in regions.	ongoing
<b>3. National and Local Levels</b>			
<b>Functional Area</b>	<b>Thematic Area</b>	<b>Description of the Joint Initiative</b>	<b>Timeline</b>

<b><u>Research and Trend Analysis</u></b>	<b>Data Collection, Urban Crime</b>	Joint effort to collect data for the CCA on urban safety that can serve as a basis for joint programming and fundraising.	tbc
<b><u>Advocacy, Coordination, Resource Mobilisation and Strategic Partnerships</u></b>	<b>Resource Mobilisation</b>	Explore potential joint programming between UNODC and UN-Habitat, as well as other UN agencies at country level to apply for multi-donor trust funds, e.g. Human Security Trust Fund, Joint SDG Fund, UN Development Account, etc.	tbc
	<b>UN Development System Coordination, Urban Safety</b>	Co-chair UNCT task teams to develop consolidated packages of assistance as a result of Urban Safety Governance Assessments in specific cities.	tbc
		Coordinate in the process of providing inputs to CCA processes.	ongoing
<b><u>Operational/ Technical Assistance</u></b>	<b>Data collection, urban crime, Urban Safety</b>	Support UN-Habitat in localizing 2030 Agenda and promoting the UN System-wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development, e.g. in Mexico...	tbc
	<b>Inter-Agency Coordination, Fundraising</b>	Participate in joint UN programmes at urban level, e.g. ongoing programme in Bolivia	tbc
	<b>Slum Upgrading, Urban Legislation, Urban Safety</b>	Explore joint initiatives in the areas of urban regeneration/ slum upgrading and urban planning	tbc

	Map information on urban legislation relevant to public space in concerned countries (incl. devolution laws and by-laws), and possibly use their methodologies and tools to assess capacity of legislation implementation.	tbc
<b>Gender</b>	Explore joint initiatives in the areas of gender, gender-based violence.	tbc
<b>Urban Safety</b>	Promote evidence-based prevention of crime, violence and drug use, in line with International Standards and best practice in pilot cities.	tbc
<b>Youth, Crime Prevention, Drug Use Prevention</b>	Build on UN-Habitat's One-stop Youth Centre Model and urban regeneration/ slum upgrading work to strengthen cooperation in the area of youth empowerment in urban settings in connection to safety and security and health promotion at local level.	tbc