

The Safer Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT

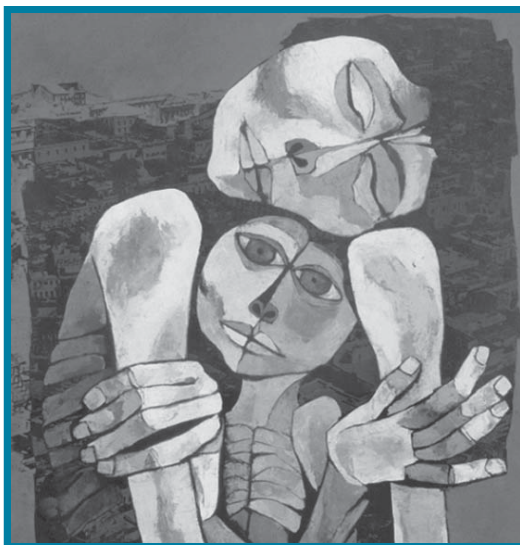


Crime does not happen spontaneously. It grows out of an unequal and exclusive society, and out of a lack of institutional and social control. Moreover, the criminal justice system, including police, courts and prisons, is poorly adapted to the rapidly changing urban environment, and is unable to respond to the concerns and needs of urban dwellers, particularly the poor.

The Safer Cities Programme was launched in 1996 at the request of African mayors who wanted to address urban violence by developing prevention strategies at city level. The programme supports the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, which acknowledges the responsibility of local authorities in crime prevention.

The main objectives of the Safer Cities Programme are:

- (1) To build capacities at city level to adequately address urban insecurity; and thereby,
- (2) To contribute to the establishment of a culture of prevention.



The Programme is presently active in 12 cities in Africa and in other regions. It combines advocacy, normative and operational activities geared towards the development and adaptation of approaches and tools for local crime prevention.

More information:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/programmes/safercities>

Urban Space and Security Policies Discussed at WUF II

Urban space and insecurity were at the center of the networking event "Urban Space and Security Policies: Between Inclusion and Privatization", which took place on, September 14 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, during the Second Session of the World Urban Forum.

At the networking event organized by UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme, the Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne, in Switzerland, and the Small Arms Survey, Geneva, cities and researchers looked into the linkages between urban space and urban safety. The focus of the networking event was on how traditional planning tools and interventions incorporate local safety concerns and develop tools to address the priorities of different groups of residents.

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The discussion held at the networking event is part of the Safer Cities Programme work towards integrated crime prevention strategies at local level. This strategy builds on the three pillars of law enforcement, social inclusion and physical planning, founded in community empowerment and participation and municipal capacity building.

The event informed the development of a research initiative that the three institutions are launching focusing on neighborhoods in Barcelona and Bogotá, looking at innovative practices around urban safety by public and private actors. The research, which is funded by Geneva International Academic Network (GIAN), is one activity of the network on safety and urban space that is being constituted to exchange practices and experiences through UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme.

For a full report of the session:

http://www.unhabitat.org/programmes/safercities/WUF_UrbanSpace.asp

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Urban Safety

Towards a **Youth-at-Risk** Strategy in Latin America

The focus on youth at risk within the strategies for urban crime prevention was strengthened by the Second International Conference on Urban Youth at Risk.

The conference whose theme was "Strong Families, Protective and Inclusive Cities: The Experience of Latin America and the Caribbean", was held in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, from 9 to 11 October 2004.

The conference objective was to discuss causes of urban youth violence, as well as policies addressing delinquency and incivility in Latin America and the Caribbean. This was the second in a series of Safer Cities regional youth conferences. The first conference was held in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in 2002 and focused on the African region.

The conference was organized by UN-HABITAT's Safer Cities Programme in close cooperation with its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and the Mexico Human Settlements Programme (HSP) Office of UN-HABITAT and brought together 200 representatives of local authorities, civil society organizations working with youth at risk, police, magistrates and youth leaders.

Young people in Latin America and the Caribbean make up a large proportion of the region's population. According to estimates by the Population Division of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (ECLADE), almost 80% of the region's youth currently reside in urban areas. The majority of these young people are victims of social exclusion, which increases their risk of becoming involved in urban crime and violence.

At the conference, the role of the main local partners involved with youth at risk was considered, which included the local authorities and the criminal justice system, the family, the education system, the civil society, and the community.

The Conference resolved to:

- Develop a regional strategy on Urban Youth-At-Risk in LAC.
- To explore an inter-agency partnership initiative to implement the strategy at city level.
- To pilot the city of Monterrey as a start-up to implement a Safer Cities project with emphasis on Youth-At-Risk.

More Information:

<http://www.unhabitat.org/programmes/safercities/moinfro.asp>

Nairobi Holds **City Wide** Convention on **Crime Prevention**



Hundreds of Nairobi residents, city officials and development partners gathered at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi from 8 to 12 November 2004 for a week-long convention on crime prevention. An initiative of the City Council of Nairobi in conjunction with UN-HABITAT and others, the convention, titled "City-Wide Residents' Convention – Safer Nairobi and Home for All", was convened in order to discuss with residents the draft crime prevention and urban safety strategy and set into motion a 2-year Action Plan.



The convention focused on crime prevention, governance and civility and it saw participants gather views from various stakeholders on how to combat crime. The convention brought together technical experts, policy makers, senior government officials, representatives of local authorities and residents from all walks of life.

Plenary sessions and workshop tracks were organized, which saw the emerging issues lead to the development of the crime prevention strategy. The highlight of the convention was the establishment of a city-wide coalition on crime prevention and a 2-year community-based coordinated action plan.

"The **Crime Prevention and Urban Safety Strategy and Action Plan** in **Nairobi – Making it Happen! 2005-2007"**

The *Nairobi Safer Cities Initiative* has developed an elaborate plan of action with defines priorities and targets on how crime can be reduced in the City of Nairobi. The strategy is informed greatly by the Nairobi Convention and has six key result areas:

1. Institutionalization of the Strategy and Action Planning Process
2. Better Enforcement of Laws and By-laws
3. Improved Urban Design and Environment
4. Support for Groups at Risk
5. Empowerment of the Community
6. Mobilization of resource/Upscaling and Replication Process

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Colombia: 2nd International Conference on Safer Cities for Women and Girls



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The Second International Conference on Safer Cities for Women and Girls was held in Colombia's city of Bogotá from 22 to 25 November 2004.

The conference, which built on the foundation of the event held in Montreal, in 2002 aimed to deepen the understanding of the links between violence in public spaces and in domestic settings. The conference drew upon the expertise of stakeholders from local, regional, and international networks.

The key highlight of the conference was the adoption of the Bogotá Declaration which, among other things, calls upon:

- National Governments to ensure appropriate policies, mechanisms and resources to address the causes of violence; as well as guarantee full safety for women participating in politics either as candidates or elected leaders.
- Local Authorities to implement municipal safety policies with a gender perspective to build the capacity of those who are responsible for the formulation and implementation of public policy.
- Private Sector to exercise its social responsibility including violence prevention programmes, good practices awards, and establish internal mechanisms for ending sexual harassment in the workplace.
- Mass Media to work with communities and with local authorities in the dissemination of the norms and principles of mutual respect and solidarity, which involves respecting gender, age, and diversity.
- Civil Society organizations to continue to be the monitors for urban safety, especially regarding the safety of women and girls and to award prizes to local authorities and communities that put in practice in a consistent and sustainable manner joint actions that promote safer cities for women and girls.

Dar es Salaam Evaluation 2004

The Safer Cities Dar es Salaam project completed its second phase at the end of 2004. It is now working towards its third phase, which shifts the focus to the replication and rolling out of the Safer Cities approach on a national level in Tanzania. In order to provide more information and a detailed assessment to inform the third phase, a careful evaluation of the achievements and opportunities, constraints and challenges that have faced the project in its work to date was conducted at the end of 2004.

The findings of the assessment were instrumental in the formulation of the project proposal for the third phase and presently, the project is in a 'bridging' or interim phase, pending support from donor governments.

The End Review and Forward Looking Assessment provides:

a) A Review Report incorporating recommendations for corrective action to enhance relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the programme, relating both to its design and implementation.

b) Presentation of key strategy issues which have emerged during the review outlining the way forward for the third phase of the replication/rolling-out of the Safer Cities approach over a four/five-year period.

Among the key findings of the evaluation, was that the project has a clear legislative mandate backed by the Local Government Act and other legislation; that the timing of the project was optimal given the local government restructuring process, the early stages of crime growth, and the negative impacts of rapid urbanization; and that overall impact has been positive with crime rates decreasing between 2000 and 2003 in the city.

Additionally, the evaluation stressed that the bottom-up community led approach is particularly relevant in drawing on local solutions to crime problems, and that capacity development has progressed well.

The evaluation also advised continuation of the scaling up of employment initiatives targeting youth-at-risk and the strengthening of documentation of best practices. It also provided a number of suggestions to strengthen the institutional framework at both local and national levels.

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Gender

Projects

Urban Crime Prevention Toolkit

Several cities of the world have in the past years implemented local crime prevention strategies. Tools and approaches have been developed, adapted, transferred to respond to the growing challenges of crime in cities of the developing and developed world.

A partnership between the South African Centre for Scientific Industrial Research's Crime Prevention Centre (CSIR/CPC) and UN-HABITAT has undertaken the development of a comprehensive toolkit highlighting the process that leads to successful local crime prevention strategies and the tools that support this process.

Based on detailed understanding of local governance processes, and on the experience these organization have gained in supporting local crime prevention initiatives in South Africa and in other cities in the world, the Toolkit is a reference for all stakeholders involved in local crime prevention processes. It targets particularly local coordinators (the key manager and facilitator of crime prevention initiatives at local level) and local government actors.

The Toolkit includes various components: the process work book, resource book, case studies as well as electronic forms and checklists. It will be supported by Training Modules for local government and other actors, and by various electronic tools, including a web based version with guided steps.

Safer Cities will disseminate the Toolkit as part of its Campaign for Good Governance materials and encourage its adaptation to country specific contexts.



Participants follow proceedings at the "Second Training Session on the Local Crime Prevention Toolkit" hosted by UN-HABITAT in Nairobi 7-11 February 2005

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LOCAL CRIME PREVENTION TOOLKIT WORKBOOK

STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION: Why a Local Crime Prevention Toolkit and How to use the Toolkit

PRINCIPLES GUIDING THIS TOOLKIT: a Process Based Approach; the Case for Local Leadership; Addressing Common Hurdles

SECTION 1: THE CRIME PREVENTION PROCESS

Each section will present: About this Section; Definitions & Objectives; The processes involved in the step and the tools options; Case Studies

- STEP A. START UP
- STEP B. BUILDING THE PARTNERSHIP
- STEP C. UNDERSTANDING LOCAL SAFETY
- STEP D. DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY
- STEP E. ACTION PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION
- STEP F. INSTITUTIONALIZING THE APPROACH

SECTION 2: SUPPORTING THE PROCESS

- UNIT G. MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP
- UNIT H. INFORMATION, EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION
- UNIT I. MONITORING & EVALUATION

SECTION 3: TOOLS TO SUPPORT CRIME PREVENTION PROCESSES

For each steps, tools, check lists, formats and guidelines are presented

SECTION 4: CASE STUDIES

GLOSSARY & REFERENCES: list of documentation and links to centre of excellence on urban crime prevention worldwide

20th Session of the Governing Council, Nairobi, Kenya, 4-8 April 2005. www.unhabitat.org/gc/gc20/

11th UN Congress on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice, April 18-25 2005.

Workshop No. 3: Strategies and Best Practices for Crime Prevention, in particular in relation to urban crime and youth at risk, 23 April 2005, Bangkok, Thailand. www.unodc.org

LIFE IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE 2005, International Conference for Integrating Urban Knowledge & Practice, to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, May 29 - June 3, 2005. www.urbanlife2005.com

IFLA-UNESCO Student Design Competition - Safer Cities and Towns The Competition will culminate in the **42nd IFLA World Congress**, Edinburgh, 26-29 June 2005, which will explore how landscape architecture can provide a holistic context for developments of any sort. SAFER CITIES AND TOWNS is one of the theme of the Congress. For more information about the conference and the competition please visit: www.l-i.org.uk/ifla/info/index.php and www.l-i.org.uk/ifla/competition/ respectively.

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