Safer Cities

Approach to Urban Crime, Violence in Human Settlements
Safety as a Cross-cutting thematic area

UN-HABITAT THEORY OF CHANGE

Sustainable urbanization is advanced as a driver of development and peace, to improve living conditions for all.

- Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban - rural continuum
- Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions
- Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment
- Effective urban crisis prevention and response

Drivers of change (How):
1. Policy & Legislation
2. Planning
3. Increased and equitably distributed locally generated revenues
4. Effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change
5. Expanded deployment of frontier technologies and innovations
6. Increased and secure access to land and adequate and affordable housing
7. Improved spatial connectivity and productivity
8. Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality

Outcomes (What):
- Enhanced social integration and inclusive communities
- Improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons
- Effective social cohesion and support for people affected by conflict and disasters

Organizational performance enablers:
- Monitoring and knowledge
- Innovation
- Advocacy, communication and outreach
- Partnerships
- Capacity building
- Systems and processes

Social inclusion issues:
1. Human rights
2. Gender
3. Children, youth and Older Persons
4. Disability

Crosscutting thematic areas:
1. Resilience
2. Safety
25 years of the Safer Cities Programme & 8 years of the Global Network on Safer Cities:

Plenty of evidence of what works and what does not work at the municipal level on the ‘local governance of safety’ and ‘the coproduction of security for all’
Outline of the UN Guidelines on Safer Cities

• The UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities outline the necessary elements in technical cooperation and assistance in order to provide local authorities a standard to respond to the challenges of delivering urban safety and security in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

• The goal is to build and promote a participatory and inclusive vision of safety tending to social cohesion and a better quality of life, with which all inhabitants can feel identified.
Several relevant targets to safer cities, in particular Target 11.7:

*By 2030 provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities*
The Safer Cities approach provides for this **Goal 11** to be read together with:

- **Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**
- **Gender Equality**
- **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**
- **Partnerships for the Goals**
The New Urban Agenda Para 39 and 42

We commit ourselves to promoting safe...and secure environment in cities and human settlements enabling all to live, work and participate in urban life without fear of violence and intimidation, taking into consideration that women and girls, children and youth, and persons in vulnerable situations are often particularly affected.

We support subnational and local governments, as appropriate, in fulfilling their key role in strengthening the interface among all relevant stakeholders, offering opportunities for dialogue, including through age and gender responsive approaches, and with particular attention to the potential contributions from all segments of society...
Public Spaces free from crime and violence

Paragraph 100:
We will support the provision of well-designed networks of safe, inclusive for all inhabitants, accessible, green, and quality public spaces and streets, free from crime and violence (...).

Inclusive measures to enhance urban safety

Paragraph 103:
We will integrate inclusive measures for urban safety, and crime and violence prevention, including terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, engaging relevant local communities and nongovernmental actors, where appropriate, in developing urban strategies and initiatives, including taking into account slums and informal settlements, as well as vulnerability and cultural factors in the development of public security, and crime and violence prevention policies, including by preventing and countering the stigmatization of specific groups as posing inherently greater security threats.
Traditional response vs new approach

- Focusing on the criminal justice system (police, tribunals, prisons)
- Focusing on major crime, leaving petty crime and ‘incivilities’ without response
- Targeting effects instead of causes - reactive instead of preventive
- Often short term and non sustainable results

- Safety as ‘common good’ and key to good governance & to sustainability
- A role for everybody in building local safety, respecting everybody mandates
- Need to target causes to reach lasting results
- Prevention is better than cure
- No one size fit all solutions
UN Guidelines: Three approaches to urban crime prevention

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- targeted visible police patrols
- supplemented by patrols by security guards and neighbourhood watch
- by-law enforcement

**SOCIAL PREVENTION**
- educational programmes
- community neighbourhood watch
- recreational facilities to occupy youth
- developing victim support centres

**SITUATIONAL PREVENTION**
- improving street lighting
- supporting street layout
- designing street, buildings, parks etc. to reduce opportunities for crime
Safer Cities Strategy: Key Elements For Effective Implementation

A COALITION
- with leadership
- assembling all key partners
- sensitive to age, gender & cultural differences
- supported by a secretariat
- engaging citizens
- a communication strategy

A security diagnosis
- challenges
- risk factors
- community resources

An action plan
- establish priorities
- identify model for practices
- target actions on risk factors
- balance short & long term actions

Evaluation & Feedback
- process evaluation
- impact evaluation
- tools development

Implementation
- training
- co-ordination of partners
- actions

Regional and (inter)national networks for exchange and replication
If a process of equipping municipalities with tools to create municipalwide safety programmes is developed and implemented in partnership with civil society and citizens, then citizens participate in the co-production of safety and security for all, prevention of violence and unrest is addressed proactively, safety perceptions are improved, expanding citizens exercise of their right to the city and their enjoyment of the urban advantage.
Towards Human Settlements Vulnerability Reduction

Security of Tenure
- targeting land and housing evictions and associated violent conflicts

Natural Disasters
- targeting risk reduction, preparedness and resilience

Crime, Violence & Social Cohesion
- targeting urban vulnerability reduction to crime and violence
- building on social capital of communities
- focusing on social interventions
Urban Insecurity manifest of social segregation
Integrating Prevention into Urban Strategies and Interventions

Example: Walkability, Night time policy
Safer Cities

Achievements

• Formulated Prevention Projects in various human settlements in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America
• Tools adapted, tested, documented and disseminated on the local approach and on prevention issues
• Networks of cities active in this field
• Acknowledgment of the role of local authorities in the international and national debate
• Enabling National policies in support to local community-based interventions
• Growing understanding within the UN on the local articulation of the prevention of violence and crime
• 40 Days Action for the Creation of Safer Cities
Cities as Safety Labs & Action Sites

City Lab will connect cities to new and inspiring sources of knowledge that can be adapted to the local contexts to inform more effective policy responses as well as practice.

Providing learning opportunities for the urban practitioner - using existing context specific practices; action-learning seminars; city to city learning through structured exchange visits and other means.

Testing innovative approaches in cities in a range of areas and validate their applicability.

Provider of high quality technical expertise and facilitator of change within cities. Drawing on partner networks and network cities—arranging and sequencing support and processes to provide a sustainable solution.
Lessons from Practice

a. The role of local authorities is clearly an important and decisive factor to address crime prevention
b. Safety and security issues must be addressed in a multilevel governance approach using the principle of coproduction of safety and security
c. It is not the city size which explains crime neither crime variations.
d. The cities which have adopted the safer cities methodology have been able to change the participatory quality of planning, management and governance tools.
e. Evidence-base & safety monitoring: Cities must first develop the capacity to collect and analyse data on urban crime and violence.
Issues to on the Safety as a Cross-cutting thematic area

• Sustaining crime prevention policies across local government administration terms

• Institutionalising crime prevention in cities - across local government departments and in coalition with local stakeholders - Local Governance of Safety frameworks
The Long-term Vision: Safer Cities 2.0

**Global Safe City Portal and Index**
Facilitating international, national and local comparisons of different indicators for use by policy makers, researchers and citizens.

Identifying gaps and areas for improvements.

Enabling public pressure on governments.

**Safe City Beacon Cities and Labs**
Supporting specific cities to implement projects that improve their safety performance & sharing results.

Facilitating co-operation, collaboration & innovation among stakeholders to use the data to identify and implement solutions.

**Safe City Report**
Analysis of data revealing trends, challenges, and solutions as well as highlighting best practices from Beacon Cities.
40 Days Safer Cities Challenge
Global Partnerships, Programming & Peer Review Framework on ‘Safer Cities’

Anchored as an implementation mechanism to support the implementation of UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025

Post 2015 - SDG 11: “Making Cities and Human Settlements Safe, Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable” – Safer Cities in the New Urban Agenda (Safer Cities 2.0)

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Thank You!

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