

Safe and Sustainable Cities



More than 50% of the world's population now lives in cities. **1 billion** of them live in slums and often lack access to safe housing, reliable services, land tenure and basic rights.



Fear is a common reality of city life for many. For women, youth, and children (especially girls) across the world, it is a daily occurrence—violence is commonplace in cities in both developed and developing countries.



Sexual violence and harassment of women and girls remains a challenge, and is experienced on public transportation, work or school, on streets, and in other public places.



What is the Safe and Sustainable Cities Joint Programme?

Launched in eight pilot cities – Greater Beirut (Lebanon), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Metro Manila (Philippines), Marrakesh (Morocco), Nairobi (Kenya), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), San José (Costa Rica) and Tegucigalpa (Honduras) – the Joint Global Initiative: “Safe and Sustainable Cities” is already developing innovative approaches to ensure the safety of women, youth and children in public places that could be used for worldwide replication by municipal authorities working in partnership with civil society, women's and grassroots groups, national and local govern-

A strategic multi-sectoral partnership that leads to transformative results across the world.



*“The happiest day of my life was today,
because I was heard.”*

12 year old girl from urban Tajikistan, participant in a baseline study of violence in public places.



Some city-level results include:

Beirut: A Rapid Assessment was conducted in 7 neighborhoods to improve existing data and identify 3 communities for targeted interventions. The Assessment revealed interrelated challenges of poverty, overcrowding, and lack of safe public spaces for women, girls and children.

Marrakech: To help ensure sustainability of the programme, a permanent Safe Cities Committee was created within the Municipality. The programme has helped to increase resources for the Municipal Committee on Equity and Gender Equality.

Rio: Community members are engaged in participatory mapping of violence and safety conditions in nine communities, which will be cross-referenced with information available from other geo-referential bases in the area.

Manila: Local authorities facilitated dialogues with informal settlers in Mandaluyong City to design collaborative interventions and mainstream ‘safety’ into the city’s planning and budgeting processes, resulting in the creation of a safer and more economically productive neighborhood.

Over the next two years:

- Improved data collection with and on children (especially girls), youth and women on violence, including sexual harassment and sexual violence;
- Increased awareness of and commitment to empowerment, social protection and safety measures for women, youth and children amongst municipal and public safety authorities;
- Increased resources and efforts allocated for women’s empowerment, and protection of children (especially girls) in high-risk municipal districts.

Over five years:

- Decrease in violence against women, youth and children, including sexual harassment and violence in intervention sites.
- Improved perception of safety amongst women, men and young community residents in intervention sites;
- Expanded availability of gender and age disaggregated relevant MDG indicators and other key indicators in intervention sites;
- Active and sustainable participation of children (especially girls) and women in urban policymaking;

For more information please contact:

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