

# Safe and Friendly Cities for All



**More than 50%** of the world's population now live in cities, **1 billion** live in slums, and often lack access to safe housing, essential services, land tenure, quality education, and basic rights, including freedom from fear and violence and the right to participate in political and economic life.



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** in particular remains a challenge, and is experienced on the way to school, work, on streets, and in other public spaces.



## What is the Safe Cities for All Joint Programme?

### A Partnership...

UN Women, UNICEF and UN Habitat are joining together to launch a five-year **results-led** initiative with strategic partners, to support 8-10 high-profile cities. Drawing on the use of **innovative, gender sensitive, and evidence based approaches**, the programme will enable local authorities and women's, youth and children's advocates to take actions to increase safety, and prevent and reduce violence, including sexual violence and harassment against women and girls.



Among the cities proposed for the first phase are **Greater Beirut, Dushanbe, Metro Manila, Marrakesh, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, San Jose and Tegucigalpa.**



## ... that is community led:

Each programme will be designed locally by UNICEF, UN Women and UN Habitat, with municipal authorities, women's, youth and children's organizations and partners.

*Examples of potential local interventions include:*

- Ensure engagement of women, youth and children in budget decision-making processes for infrastructure and services in their neighborhoods;
- Build capacity of young people and local women leaders to contribute to sustainable gender-equitable urban policies and infrastructure;
- Jointly conduct safety audits with local authorities, security officials, women, young people and children to identify factors that create risk and insecurity;

- Promote data collection, build baselines and develop indicators through women-youth- and child- sensitive and inclusive approaches, and innovative efforts (e.g. SMS mapping, and safety audits using GIS in volatile communities);

- Establish Female Councillor-led Committees to oversee responses to sexual violence, abuse and crime. These Committees can develop plans of action, conduct safety audits, and advocate for increased involvement of female parliament members, architects, urban planners, lawyers and diverse women's professional associations;

- Scale up proven, innovative and participatory solutions to violence in vulnerable communities (e.g. improved lighting and training and mobilization of community-based police units).

## ... and leads to transformative results across the world:



**For more information,  
please contact:**

### Over the next two years:

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

### Over the next five years:

- ◆ Improved perception of safety amongst women and young community residents in intervention sites;
- ◆ Active and sustainable participation of women, youth and children in urban policymaking;
- ◆ Decrease in violence, including sexual harassment and sexual violence, in intervention sites.

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