UN WOMEN
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

**Safe Cities & Safe Public Spaces
for Women and Girls Global Initiative**

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What gaps does the SC/SPS Initiative address?

Experiences on safe cities programming with women and girls have been limited scale and scope
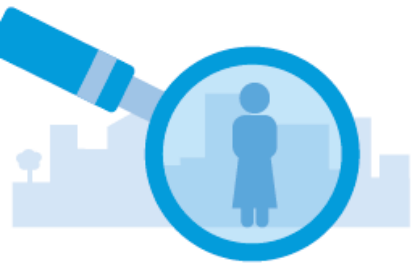
Few evaluations available, no impact evaluations

Lack of reliable data on sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (SVAWG) in public spaces

The problem of SVAWG in public spaces is largely unrecognized often considered as a "normal" aspect of urban life

There are very few policies, and challenges in implementation

❑ **January 2011**: five founding programmes (Cairo, Kigali, Port Moresby, Quito, Delhi), supported by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and leveraged through support of programmes by: DFAT Australia, USAID, EU, the Netherlands, Japan, and New Zealand

❑ **2013- 2014**, building the Initiative to scale in **15 cities**, including **4 in developed countries** (Dublin, Brussels, Sakai, Winnipeg)

❑ **2015-2019**, through a <u>diverse funding base</u>, the Global Initiative now spans nearly 40 cities, with increased demand from cities across the world

   UN Women Strategic Plan Output 12: More cities and other settings have safe and empowering spaces for women and girls

Shared vision in the pathway to change

Co production of data & Partnerships

- Conceptual Approaches
- Multi-sectoral partnerships
- Scoping Study

Develop comprehensive Laws & Policies

- Specific laws to prevent and respond to sexual violence in public spaces

Invest in the safety and economic viability of public spaces

- Gender approach to urban and rural public spaces planning

Transform Social Norms

- Promote women and girls rights to use and enjoy public spaces free from SVAWG.

Expected impact-level results

❑ A reduction in different forms of SVAWG in public spaces: (with specific indicators in line with SDG 5 (target 5.2), and SDG 11 (target 11.7)

❑ A greater sense of women's safety in public spaces.

❑ Increased autonomous mobility of women and girls in the city

***First set of endline studies (2019) for founding programmes Quito, Port Moresby, and Cairo

How are cities supported?

Global Package of tools to support step by step programming that can be adapted to context

With technical guidance from UN/ Civil Society and other Expert partners

Cross regional activities as part of a Global Community of Practice for the Global Initiative/Shared Platform

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Some Lessons Learned

✓ Technical support of different stakeholders/multiple levels

✓ **The need to deepen support and work <u>with</u> sectors** (Police, Housing, Transport, and Commodity Sectors, including through public/ private collaboration) to prevent and respond to SVAWG in public spaces (and with tailored tools)

✓ Building to scale within and across cities/countries (not linear)

- ✓ **Funding to support gaps in delivering safe cities and/or safe rural spaces with women and girls' interventions** in **Latin America** as part of a comprehensive approach to prevention and cross regional support. **Current Gap**: **5 million USD**

- ✓ UN Women requests from cities to participate in the Global Initiative, in order to achieve output 12 of UNW SP: **Seed funds at the level of ($350,000/400,000 +** per city**) are needed to begin safe city programmes in the regions of**: **ESARO, WCARO, ECA, and Arab States**

- ✓ Reach out to **capital and secondary cities in developed countries** to work within their area of influence to help strengthen/support safe city approaches and mobilize action within country for (universal mandate/agenda SDGs).

THANK YOU