



# Building Municipal Skills for Community Safety Planning

Project Newsletter  
June – August 2014

## PARTNERS IN SAFETY PLANNING

- West Rand District Municipality
- Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality
- Ikwezi Local Municipality
- Civilian Secretariat for Police
- Provincial Governments: Gauteng and Eastern Cape Departments of Community Safety/Safety & Liaison, Local Government
- Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG)
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA)

The *Building Skills for Safety Planning* project is an initiative of the **Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention (VCP)** programme and its partners. The VCP programme is a joint South African-German intervention coordinated nationally by the Department of Cooperative Governance and implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

## Project Activities

The project inception meeting in Pretoria in June provided a most useful overview of developments within the sector and partner imperatives. On the basis of clear feedback from community safety programmes and partner priorities, the project activities and deliverables were extensively refined with much emphasis on avoiding the duplication of existing manuals and toolkits.

Subsequent visits to the municipal partners and departments revealed community safety programmes and progress around CSFs that differed from site to site. Different players have their own policy and operating guides / manuals on CSFs and community safety but the basic provisions, principles and logic tends to be very similar.

The ‘stock-take’ of available community safety / CSF manuals, guides and toolkits is virtually complete. In its final form, it will offer an overview of such materials and the point at which they can be most effectively deployed within the safety planning cycle.

A draft set of criteria for evaluating safety plans has been developed and pays close attention to the demands of the IDP process. These criteria will be refined based on further inputs from project partners.

**West Rand District Municipality (WRDM):** The forms for profiling safety coordinator work have been sent to the district partners and the first training module has been developed and is ready for roll-out in WRDM.

**Ikwezi Local Municipality:** The forms for profiling safety coordinator work have been sent and a draft community safety review of the IDP has been completed.

**Nelson Mandela Bay Metro:** a slightly different route is under consideration to ensure that the institutional responsibility for community safety is appropriately dealt with within the organisational structure.

**All municipalities:** We are counting on the return of work profiles to help design training and to frame the ideal job description for a safety coordinator.

An initiative by

**The Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention for Safe Public Spaces (VCP) programme**



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Development Services

## Forthcoming Events & Activities

- ✓ **19-21 August 2014**  
WRDM Training Module 1
- ✓ **26-28 August 2014 (provisional)**  
Ikwezi Local Municipality Training Module 1
- ✓ **2-4 September 2014 (provisional)**  
Nelson Mandela Bay Metro planning session

## Key Insights

- In many cases the CSF model had seen a period of rapid progress followed by a few years of stagnation and difficulty in maintaining the momentum of these critical forums. There appears to be a renewed political drive to ensure that sustainable CSFs are set in place
- Most municipalities accept that the community safety function is weak in terms of the social crime prevention dimension and tends to focus on the conventional functions of fire services, traffic, disaster management etc.
- The institutional location of community safety as a function varies across municipalities but in some cases is seen as less than ideal – some well-established safety programmes now suffer from institutional ‘homelessness’
- Improved safety plans must show integration and coordination but can also take the form of sector products in their own right – this is the type of discretion that local government rightfully exercises as an autonomous sphere
- There is a strong argument for new safety resources to be geared to IDP cycles and to be flexible rather than prescriptive. Site visits indicated a need to frame approaches that are adaptable to municipal capacity / differing social environments
- There needs to be more understanding of the first generation of CSFs - some were highly successful and offered clear lessons
- Showing impact of safety plans and programmes is critical – there is a need to show real gains in crime and violence prevention, and appropriate ways of measuring impacts need to be developed



Early childhood development services are an important element of a municipality's role in promoting safer communities

## Highlights

### News from the sector

- Nationally the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) is endeavoring to improve IDPs by conducting workshops on the revised IDP framework guideline and stressing integration and the quality of sector plans. A key issue is what municipalities can actually fund as part of the implementation.
- For a small rural municipality with very few resources, the Ikwezi IDP shows a number of components where community safety has been considered. Community safety issues are linked to community / ward based planning initiatives, SAPS crime statistics are analysed for the major settlement areas, a partnership is in place with the Provincial Department of Safety and Liaison and the impact of crime on tourism is noted.
- The Eastern Cape Department of Safety and Liaison is fine tuning a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that includes a broad range of indicators to which different line departments and civil society structures have contributed.
- Towards the end of July the GIZ Inclusive Violence and Crime Prevention Programme (VCP) and its partners held a Validation, Ownership and Pilot Training Workshop on the Toolkit for Participatory Safety Planning. The toolkit was positively received by all participants. Mxolisi Khalane of Mbumba



**Cooperation between police and community members is an essential part of any local municipal crime prevention strategy**

noted that the presentations were insightful and informative and the CSF model was prominent and well defined in the Toolkit. Most importantly systemic violence and crime prevention were shown to be key features to be incorporated into the IDP.